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PARSELL, JOSEPHINE.

THE HISTORY OF SALEM

TOWNSHIP, STEUBEN COUNTY,

IND.

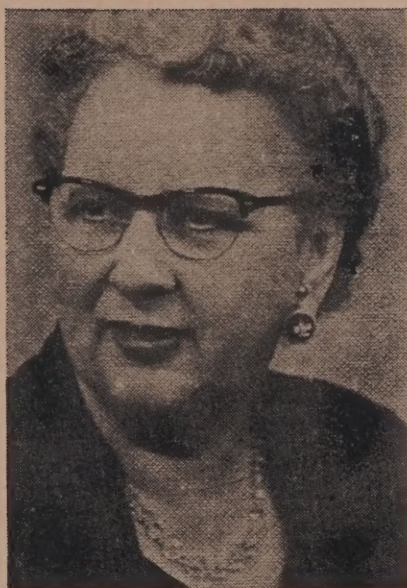
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THE HISTORY OF SALEM TOWNSHIP  
STEUBEN COUNTY, INDIANA



BY  
MISS JOSEPHINE PARSELL  
1954



Allen County Public Library  
900 Webster Street  
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Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270



Miss Josephine Parsell, a dearly beloved neighbor of the Salem Center Community, was born May 28, 1903 the daughter of Bell Woodford and Enos Parsell.

She was educated in the Salem Township Schools, graduating in 1921. She graduated from Goshen College and Tri-State College, holding a lifetime teachers license from the latter.

Josephine taught for a short time in Helmer, with the balance of her teaching years spent at Elkart and Salem. When the schools were consolidated she taught for a short time at the Flint building.

Josephine was everyone's friend, always willing to lend a helping hand. Living most of her life in the old Woodford homestead in Salem Center.

A friend, Helen Stevens, at one time gave her a statue of a cat, which over the years developed into a hobby of collecting cats. Many school children added to that collection at Christmas time and special days. In later years she gave her collection to the Steuben County Museum.

After retiring from teaching, she spent two summers working for the Juvenile Division of the Steuben County Welfare Department.

The last four years of her life she lived at the Carlin Park Nursing Home in Angola, departing this life in the fall of 1975.

#### MY INDIANA HOME

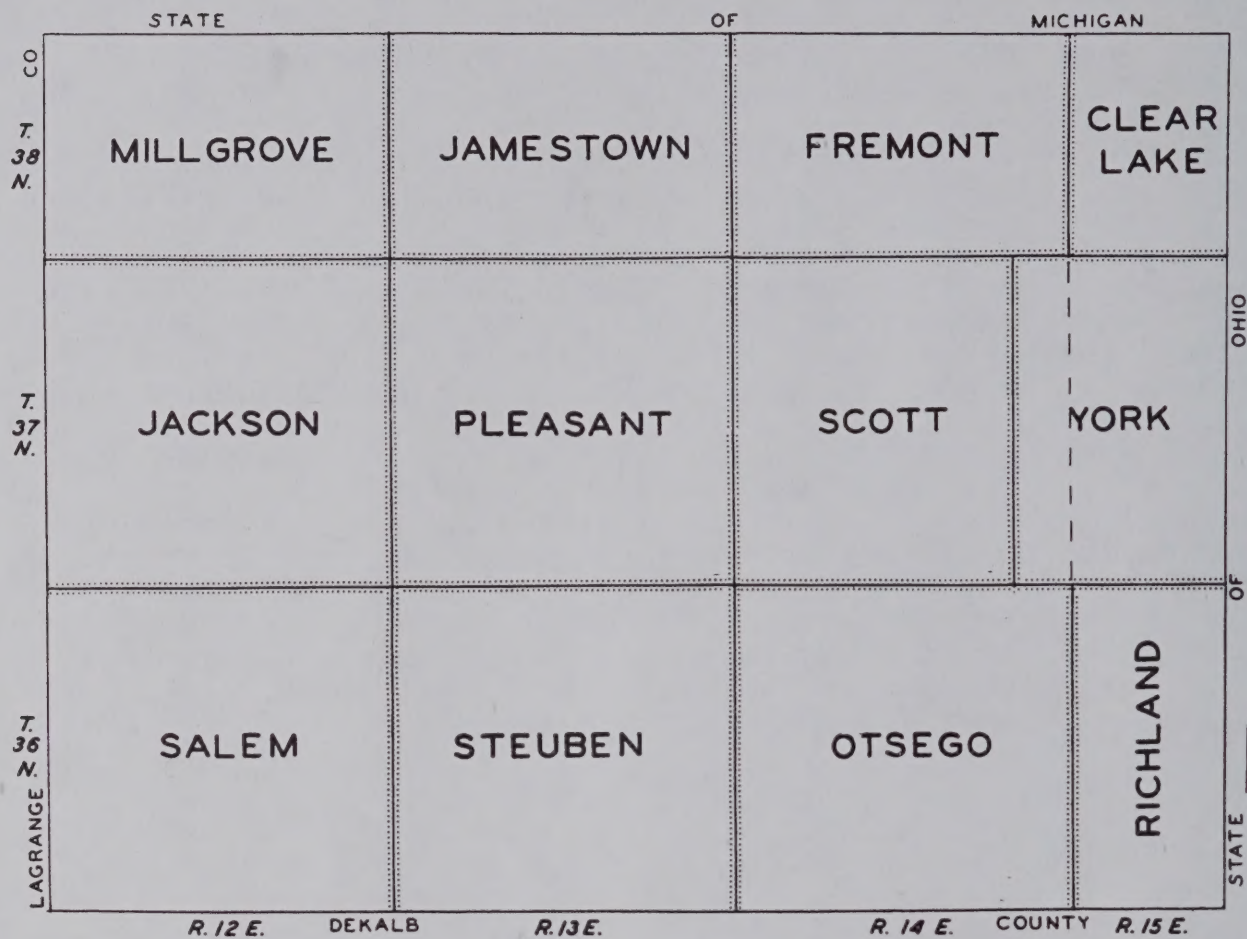
God created the Heavens  
And then He made the earth-  
All the joy, the laughter  
and mirth.  
He made all the flowers,  
The birds and the bees,  
And the rolling hills  
He sprinkled with trees.  
He made all the fishes  
That swim in our lakes,  
And He made Indiana  
The greatest of states.  
I thank Thee, Dear God,  
Where,er I may roam,  
For creating for me  
My Indiana Home.

-- Josephine Parsell



## STEUBEN COUNTY

INDIANA



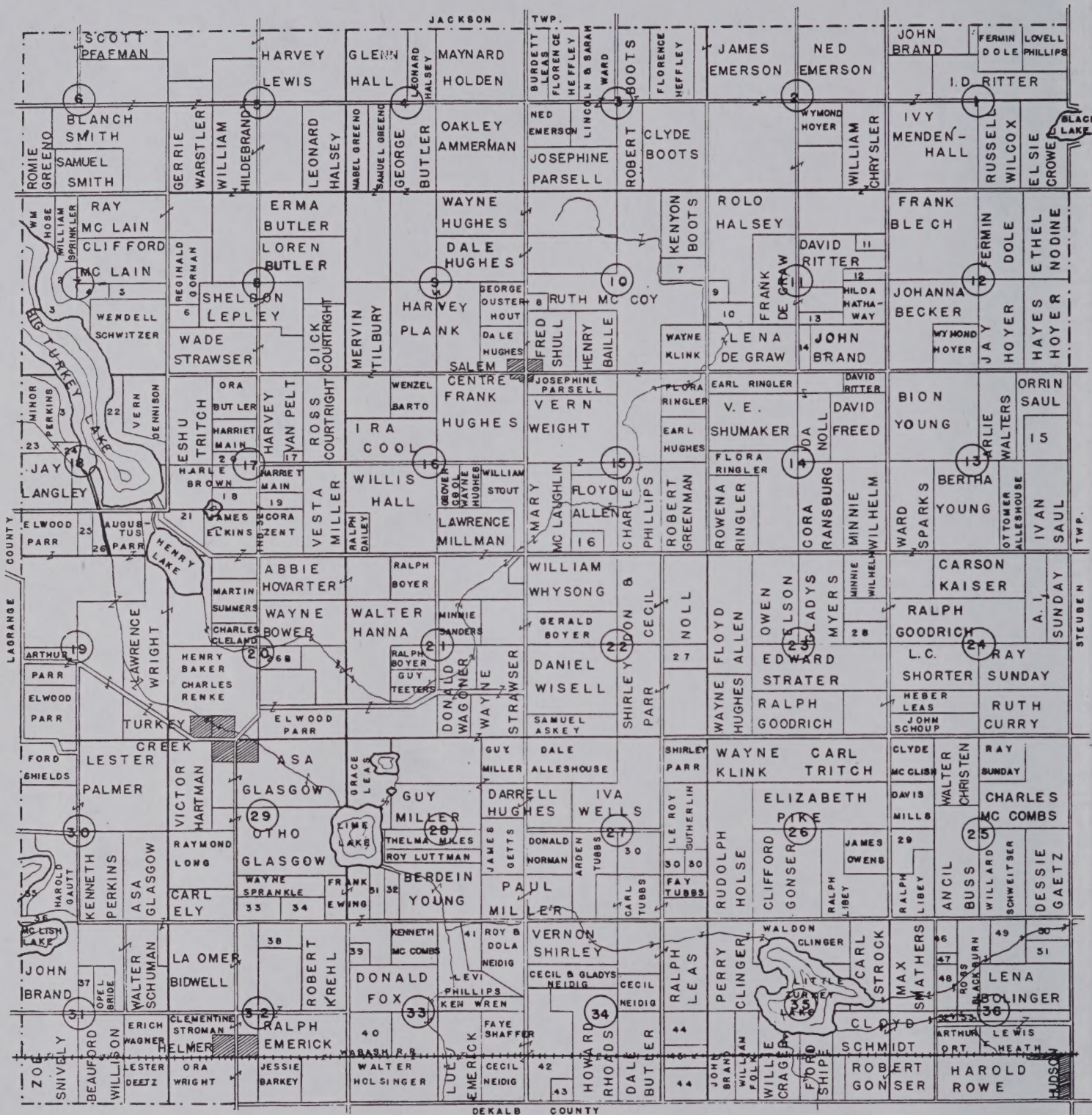


**SALEM  
TOWNSHIP**

**Township 36 North  
Range 12 East**



## SALEM TOWNSHIP



Salem Township was first settled by Richard Knott, in the summer of 1835. Caleb Hopkins made the first land entry August 26, 1835, in the southeast quarter of section 3.

Small property owners are indicated by number: 1, Fannie and Ilah Towns; 2, Wildwood by the Lake; 3, Wabash Portland Cement Co.; 4, Wm. Sprinkle; 5, Harvey Van Pelt; 6, Auglie Getrost; 7, Jennings Luttman; 8, Harold Lockamire; 9, Wayne Klink; 10, Georgia Parsell; 11, Harry Shumaker; 12, Oran Beigh; 13, David Ritter; 14, Ralph Jones; 15, Ottamer Alleshouse; 16, Edgar Whysong; 17, John Wilson; 18, Clifford and Donald McClain; 19, Lydia Ruckman and Marjorie Weimer; 20, Lucile Rowe; 21, Charles and Dora Wright; 22, Dennison's addition; 23, Chalmers Adams; 24, Rufus Kocher; 25, J. Byron Bovee; 26, Claude Geltys; 26b, Mildred Krause; 27, Robert Greenman; 28, Clyde McClish; 29, Clarence Johnson; 30, George and Donald Norman; 31, Ross Wren; 32, Wilbur Rowe; 33, Milburn Elkins; 34, Lawrence Deetz; 35, Blue Haven; 36, Elm Grove; 37, Perry Emerick; 38, Russell Shaffer; 39, Ira Rowe; 40, Robert Shaffer; 41, Earnest Young; 42, Spencer Ringler; 43, Jesse Shultz; 44, Trevor Frederick; 45, Wabash R.R. Co.; 46, Kenneth Camp; 47, Circle Cemetery; 48, Maude Libey and Hazel Pray; 49, John Shatto; 50, Max Smathers; 51, Rush Smathers; 52, John Boyd; 53, Lester Hartman.



## SALEM SALUTES

To the children of yesterday, the children of today, and the children of tomorrow, I dedicate my chapter of the Steuben County History; with the hope that it will bring pleasant memories to the children of yesterday, be an inspiration to the children of today, and a challenge to the children of tomorrow.

It seems the rightful heritage of every child in Salem Township to have some knowledge of his ancestors and the foresight they possessed. In this modern world filled with luxuries and plenty, it is difficult for the generations of today to realize that life hasn't always been easy. Let us be mindful that by toil worn hands, undaunted courage, and a determined spirit our pioneer forefathers laid a foundation for us, much stronger and greater than the material things of this modern world. They have given us a faith, a hope, and a freedom that only a peace loving people can possess.

I want to thank every person who has so willingly helped with the necessary data for this history. It has been a pleasant experience.

Without the help of Mrs. Cora Wisel Zent Shields, much of this history would have been impossible. Mrs. Shields, who is the daughter of Daniel Wisel, lives with her husband, Albert Shields, one mile south and one mile west of Salem, in the old Wisel home. She is 83 years of age with a keen mind and a sense of humor that endears her to her relatives, neighbors, and friends. She has shared scrapbooks, clippings, old letters, and obituaries that have been a valuable aid. She has given hours of her time to research and recollections and for this great contribution, I am sincerely grateful.



Mrs. Eshu Tritch has spent hours and days in collecting data for Helmer and Turkey Creek. Her deep interest and untiring efforts have made her an efficient co-worker in this enterprise. Without her faithful assistance, the Salem Township History would not be complete. To her, I am ever thankful for the valuable contribution she has made.



## SALEM TOWNSHIP

Salem Township lies in the southwest corner of Steuben County. It is bounded on the north by Jackson Township, on the east by Steuben Township, on the south by DeKalb County, and on the west by LaGrange County. The township, which is nearly a six mile square, contains a little less than thirty-six sections, or nearly 23,000 acres. This acreage is drained by Turkey and Mud Creeks.

Salem Township is a beautiful pastoral locality containing several good sized lakes. Big Turkey Lake, which lies on the western boundary, is the largest, and a separate account of this lake is given elsewhere in this chapter. Other lakes found in Salem Township are Little Turkey in section 35, Lime Kiln in sections 28 and 29, Mud Lake in section 17, and Henry Lake in the corner of sections 17, 18, 19, and 20. Henry Lake was named from an early settler, M. Henry, who settled on the farm now owned by Mrs. Mae Hall. He and his sons were frequent fishermen at this lake and so the lake was called Henry Lake. McClish Lake is in section 31 and Lake of the Woods extends from LaGrange County on section 30. This lake has been developed in recent years and is a resort center. Every few years, the Indiana State Conservation Club stocks these lakes with blue gill, trout, bass, and red eye.

The surface of Salem Township is quite rolling but offers many level fields for cultivation. The soil runs from Bellefontaine fine sandy loam to Miami fine sandy loam with numerous spots of muck and clay. The elevation is between 900 ft. and 1,000 ft.



Crops grown on the farms of this vicinity are corn, wheat, oats, soybeans, and hay. Salem Township is among the leading localities where legumes and grasses are grown in abundance, without the aid of irrigation. In the large muck areas of the township, many fields of potatoes, spinach, carrots, onions, and other vegetables are grown. Tomatoes are produced throughout the township for the canneries in nearby towns. The growing of peppermint did not prove successful. Donald Norman has been active in the truck farming enterprise, as was his father, George Norman. Dean Norman is now associated with his father, making three generations to carry on this type of farming. Other truck farmers are Jennings Luttman, Roy Luttman, and Arden Tubbs.

With the advent of tractors, combines, corn pickers, and other modern farm machinery, the farmers of Salem Township have found more time for the raising of chickens, cattle, sheep, and pigs. Wayne Bowser, living north of Helmer on 327, has a large broiler house with several hundred birds. Large flocks are also cared for on the LaOmer Bidwell farm north of Helmer, and on the Sam Greeno farm near Salem. Worthy Stroman of Helmer specializes in pure bred sheep and has some outstanding show animals. Since 1914 he has been a breeder of a fine line of Hampshire sheep, a single ram from his flock, bringing as high as \$300. He is at present the oldest Hampshire breeder in the state of Indiana. Dairy cattle are produced and kept on many farms. The milk is sold to nearby milk companies. The daily appearance of the milk truck is a familiar sight to all rural families as it makes its scheduled stops at the various farms



to collect the cans of milk. Many farmers are interested in the cattle industry and among them are LaOmer Bidwell, George Butler, William Chrysler, James Emerson, Ned Emerson, Ralph Emrick, the late Asa Glasgow, Robert Gonser, Ralph Goodrich, Maynard Holden, Dale Hughes, Wayne Hughes, Burdette Leas, Ralph Leas, Von Milleman, William Milleman, Dale Parr, Verl and Raymond Pike, V. E.

Shumaker, Max Smathers, and Bion Young. Some pigs are raised in the township and found on the farms of James Getts, Harold Hovarter, Lawrence Milleman, Von Milleman, Dale Parr, Earl Ringler, and Mervin Tilbury. Several Salem Township families keep horses and ponies for riding purposes. The families of Harold Christoffel, Robert Daily, and Robert Greenman belong to the Pokagon Saddle Club. Other horse owners are Dale Alleshouse, Robert Boots, James Emerson, and William Milleman.

When the settlers came to Salem Township the forests were dense and large, and clearing the land was a laborious task. Today the woodlands are small but a wide variety of trees is found throughout the area. Growing within Salem Township are the following varieties of native trees: White ash, large-toothed aspen, basswood, beech, blue beech, river birch, box elder, Ohio buckeye, red cedar, black cherry, coffee tree, cottonwood, flowering dogwood, American elm, slippery elm, black gum, sweet gum, hackberry, bitternut hickory, shagbark hickory, white and pignut hickory, ironwood, black locust, honey locust, red and sugar maple, red mulberry, white oak, burr oak, swamp white oak, chestnut oak, red oak, black oak, pin oak, shingle oak, osage orange, red bud, sassafras, thorn apple, tulip tree, black walnut, and black willow.



A variety of pine trees are found in the township, but they are not native to the township. Fruit and nut trees thrive on nearly every farm.

Ora Butler owns and operates the Butler Apple Orchard, one mile west of Salem on highway 327. He is one of the outstanding orchard men in Indiana and has made an extensive study of trees. When Ora's grandfather, Jesse Butler, came to Salem Township in 1838, he made the following comment: "We stopped at Jackson Prairie but there were no trees, so we headed southward, and when we came to a place where the trees touched the sky, we stopped. It was Salem Township." Ora Butler's neighbors pay him a great tribute when they say, "Ora is never too busy to share his vast knowledge of trees with his friends and fellowmen."

Several woods of maple trees are found in Salem Township and Vern Weicht still operates the maple sugar camp located on his farm, one half mile south of Salem. Approximately eighty to one hundred gallons of maple syrup are made each season, and it sells for \$5 per gallon. This camp has been in use for eighty years when Vern's maternal grandfather, Benjamin Silvery (1834-1914) started it. The equipment was made of wood and very crude. The syrup sold for 50¢ a gallon.

A saw mill, one half mile south and one half mile west of Salem in section 16, is operated by Grover Cool and his son, John. Frank Cool was in partnership with his brother Grover until his death in 1952. Many farmers in the township have depended on this saw mill to prepare their native lumber for building purposes. The Cool Brothers also operated several threshing



machines in the community, before the combines were put into use. A repair shop in Salem was also operated by Grover and Frank Cool. James (1853-1930) and Mary (1854-1932) Cool came to Salem Township in 1902 and bought the farm in section 16 which is still in the Cool family. Their children were Cyrus, deceased, Grover (1884- ), Ira (1885-1951), and Frank (1887-1952).

From the reminiscences of Dan Wisel the following account is taken: "When we arrived in this section of the country in 1836, it was a hunter's paradise. Nothing uncommon to get up in the morning and see three or four deer in the barnyard with the cattle. And turkeys, Giminy Krauts, when the old hen turkeys would come off with their young ones you couldn't go forty yards without running into a drove of young turkeys. I wasn't big enough to hunt but when I got big enough and got a gun all my own, I got my share of game. I had venison hung up all around. I could sell the deer hides and get enough to keep me in ammunition."

Wild life is abundant in Salem Township and history seems to be repeating itself, with the reappearance of fox and deer. In recent weeks deer have been cited on several farms. Foxes are becoming too plentiful and destructive, and "Fox Hunts" have been organized in the winter months for the purpose of lessening the number of these destructive intruders. The following wild animals are native to Salem Township: Fox, weasel, field mice, ground squirrel, red squirrel, fox squirrel, black squirrel, flying squirrel, rabbit, skunk, opossum, racoon, muskrat, mink, ground-hog, and beaver. These small animals are found throughout the township and many are caught during the winter hunting season.



God has been kind to Salem Township and in it, people have prospered and have found an abundance of everything good. Within its borders lives a group of American citizens who are contributing to the welfare of their fellowmen, and sharing their lives that others may find happiness too. Comfortable, modern homes are enjoyed by the families of Salem Township, all made possible by the resources of nature, the foresight of our pioneer forefathers and the ambition and determination of a progressive people.



## EARLY SETTLERS

The first entry of land in Salem Township was made August 16, 1835 by Caleb Hopkins, who entered the west half of the south-east quarter of section 3. This land is now owned by Robert Boots. Mr. and Mrs. Boots and four sons, Allen, Vance, Russell, and Eric reside on this farm and enjoy the comforts of a modern rural home.

A few months later, Richard Knott entered land and remained, being the first permanent settler in the township.

During the next three years a number of settlers came in, among them were David Wisel Jr., Elder Joseph Locke, David Wisel Sr., Otis Wisel, Edward T. Hammond, Eli Teal, John Wilson, John Bodley, Benjamin Murphy, Avery Emerson, C. C. Bodley, A. Hollister, Ed Teal, George Brown, Daniel Butler, Jesse Butler, Loren Butler, M. Henry, Elias Hughes, E. Crusan, C. Lobdell, Peter and Angus McKinley, E. Griswold, B. Sherwin, G. Griswold, Isaac P. Murphy, P. Bundy, David Butler, J. Stone, and G. Stone.

A number of these early settlers are never referred to again, so it is probably that they journeyed on westward or returned to their former homes. Those that remained in the township have laid the foundation for the life that we now enjoy. It has been my aim to bind us closer to these pioneer people, by relating the experiences they shared and the hardships they endured.

On August 4, 1836, Mr. and Mrs. David Wisel Jr. left their home in Franklin County, Massachusetts, and started for a home in the West. They traveled by stage, canal, and steamboat to Cleveland, Ohio. There they were joined by Elder Joseph Locke and his family from Cattaraugus County, New York. Mrs. David Wisel's maiden name was Jerusha Bent and Mrs. Joseph Locke, her sister, was Lydia Bent.



From Ohio they pursued their western journey by covered wagon, as there were no railroads to accommodate the travelers. Progress was very slow over the new muddy roads, and it took the small group of settlers three weeks to arrive in Steuben County, Indiana. They stopped on the border of Township 36. There they found a board shanty, open on the south side, which belonged to Robert Bell of Ohio and who had not yet moved on. In this shanty they took shelter until Mr. Locke and Mr. Wisel could look up their land.

The day after their arrival, Mr. Locke was attacked with the ague. Heavy rains coming on made the small shelter very inadequate as stoves had not come into use and the fires were made outdoors.

Mr. Locke and Mr. Wisel hunted out their land, located at what is now Salem Center in sections 9, 10, and 15. They cut a wagon road through to their destined homes and prepared to build their cabins. But first their land must be secured, so Mr. Wisel took a pack on his back and started for the land office at Fort Wayne. He had to follow an Indian trail, as there were no roads yet opened through the wilderness and the streams were unbridged. Mr. Wisel told of coming to a muddy stream at nightfall. He had to ford the stream, going down to his shoulders. When he reached the opposite bank he had some difficulty in finding his path. After wandering until nine o'clock, cold and wet, he espied the glimmer of a light through the trees. He was very glad to find a little log cabin where eight or ten other travelers had stopped for the night. The kind host gave him the privilege of lying before the fire overnight for which Mr. Wisel was very grateful.

Before Elder Joseph Locke and David Wisel Jr. had their cabins



completed in sections 9 and 15, they were joined by David's brother Otis and their father, David Wisel Sr.

Mrs. Jerusha Wisel, the wife of David Jr. has played an important part in the history of Salem Township. In the spring of 1837 the township was organized and the election for town officers was held in the home of David Wisel Jr. There were twelve votes cast. Prior to this time the settlement was called Wiselberg. It was Aunt Jerusha, as she was affectionately called, who gave the name Salem to our township. When a name was being discussed Aunt Jerusha said, "This is such a quiet, peaceful little community; let's name the township Salem, because Salem means peace." And so since 1837 our township has been called Salem. In the year 1848 or 1849 a mail route was opened through Salem from Auburn to Orland. Mr. Hall carried the mail and David Wisel Jr. was Postmaster at Salem. The first post office was in the Wisel house and Aunt Jerusha made a reed basket that held the mail. The first settler women brought with them the art of basket making and there are several baskets still in the community that Aunt Jerusha and several other ladies had made.

Mr. Locke and Mr. Wisel brought their cattle with them and bells were fastened around the cows' necks and they were turned into the woods to hunt for their living. They needed close watching, lest they wander away. Cow bells belonging to the various settlers were given varied tones so that each man could tell the location of his cattle by the sound of the bell. This was done by size and shape of the bell or the length and size of the clapper.

In 1854, a Salem Township man stole a bell and strap from a cow's neck in DeKalb County. He was arrested and Orson Woodford and Samuel Van Pelt signed their names to the \$500 bond. On July

14, 1855 the case was heard but the defedant did not appear and could not be found. Justice of the Peace Alexander Van Clear ordered that the defendant and Bail pay all costs in the case. There were twelve jurymen and among them were David Hughes, Ed Teal, Orson Woodford, Samuel Van Pelt, and David Dension. Among the defense witnesses were Ben Chilson, Aaron Parsell, John Ritter, and Augustus Story. The state also had six witnesses. Cost of the case included:

Jurymen fees 50¢ each	\$6.00
Witness fees 50¢ each	6.00
Constable Wm. Sherrow's cost	4.36
Constable N. Ruthman	1.00
Justice costs	<u>1.25</u>
	\$18.61

Mr. Wisel Sr. and his sons were busily engaged in getting the roofs on their houses as it looked like rain. Phoebe Wisel, the daughter of David, Sr. and Mrs. Locke and her son Joseph, aged eleven, started to hunt the cows. They found them a mile and a half east of home, which would be east of Salem in the vicinity of Trinity Church. After getting the cattle collected together they did not know which was to start home. They all hallooed and yelled until the men on the roof heard them and answered back. The women called again and the wolves set up a hideous howl on all sides of them. Fearing the wolves had attacked the small group, the men called again but got no answer. Phoebe, Mrs. Locke and Joseph climbed up in a tree out of reach of the wolves and the cattle gathered around the tree, shaking their bells at the intruders. The men hunted and hunted into the night but with no results. Otis and his brother, Ira Wisel, went and got John Wilson and Charles Bodley to help in the search. Mr. Bodley was a great hunter, and when the women heard him fire his gun, they ventured



to answer. Shortly, they were found and led out to the log cabin home of Mr. Wilson. Mrs. Wilson prepared refreshments and the women rested there until morning.

The first year after the pioneers had settled in Salem Township, they had to go to Lima for mail and to Pretty Prairie for provisions. So many settlers moved into this country the first two years that it caused produce to be very high. Before the first crops were harvested, it was difficult to get wheat at any price, and for a few weeks, the families had to live on rice and hominy. Sick wheat was brought in from Ohio and sold to the hungry settlers for good grain, but even a hungry dog would be too sick after eating his first meal of it, to accept the second biscuit.

In 1837 there were few cases of severe illness. David Wisel Sr. had the ague, the effects from which he never recovered but lived until 1843.

Mr. and Mrs. Wisel Jr., Mrs. David Wisel Sr., and a nephew, Jonathan Wisel, youngest son of Ira Wisel, who died in the army, left Steuben County and moved to Fillmore County, Minnesota, for the purpose of building a sawmill. It was two years later that the entire family was thrown into a flooding stream and their house was demolished and floated downstream. The body of David Wisel Jr. was found later as were the bodies of his mother, Julie Reed Wisel, and his nephew Jonathan. Only five people accompanied the bodies to the silent grave in Minnesota and Aunt Jerusha Wisel was one of them. After this harrowing experience she returned to Salem Township to the home of her nephew, Joel Locke. After the death of Elder Joseph Locke, Mrs Locke made her home with her son Joel and family. An addition was built on the log house and here Mrs. Locke and her sister Jerusha resided. Mrs. Locke was a weaver and she spent many hours at her

loom. In 1893, Aunt Jerusha died at the home of her nephew, Joel Locke, who lived on the farm, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ross Courtright. Before Aunt Jerusha's death she gave Ross Courtright her Bible that went through the flood. It is yellow with age but endeared by the family for the memories it holds.

To have been the second white baby born in Salem Township, Steuben County, was indeed a great honor, and this distinction belonged to Daniel Wisel who was born on March 9, 1838 to Otis and Betsy Van Pelt Wisel, who lived in a log cabin, one half mile north of Salem where the Harold Lochamire house now stands. Uncle Daniel, as he was called by all who knew him, died in 1940, at the age of one hundred and one years and nine months.

The Potawatomi Indians were still living in Salem Township when Uncle Dan Wisel was a child, and he has related several stories about them that are of keen interest to us all. I shall give them in the exact words of Uncle Dan:

"When I was born there were no roads, no nothing, but lots and lots of Indians. We lived a half mile north of Salem Center on the east side of the road, and there was a large Indian trail went right through our dooryard. It went northwest over where Mongo is, and I don't know where it went from there. Many Indians came to our house and it seemed our house was full of them half the time. They would stop and ask my mother for bread, but, we needed bread just about as bad as the Indians did."

"One day there was an old squaw came to our house and she had her little papoose with her, just about my size. I was eyeing him and he was eyeing me, both of us little fellows. I guess the old squaw noticed us for she wanted mother to trade babies. But didn't I get to Mother and beg her not to trade me off!"



"The Indians set a time to clean out all the white folks, so that night my mother took me and my brother, he was two years older, and some blankets and quilts out in the middle of the corn-field, and she hid us in the corn shocks and we stayed there. Mother said that she heard five or six squads of Indians on the trail that night, but they didn't make a break. They didn't disturb anyone. I was one or two years old at the time."

"When the Indians left Salem Township and Steuben County, the trail was thick with them for four or five days. The last squad had been gone ten or fifteen minutes when two big Indians came along perfectly stark naked and there was never an Indian on the trail again for this was the closing of the trail."

The regular emigration of these poor unfortunate Indians, about one thousand in number, was a pitiful sight. Another eye witness describes the departure of this tribe in these words:

"It was a sad and mournful spectacle to witness these children of the forest slowly retiring from the home of their childhood, that contained not only the graves of their revered ancestors but also many endearing scenes, to which their memories would ever recur as they were bidding farewell to the hills, valleys, and streams of their infancy, the more exciting hunting grounds of their advanced youth as well as the stern and bloody battlefields where they had contended in riper manhood, on which they had received wounds and where many of their friends and loved relatives had fallen, covered with gore and with glory. All these they were leaving behind them to be desecrated by plowshare of the white man. As they cast mournful glances back toward these loved scenes that were rapidly fading in the distance, tears fell from the cheek of the downcast warrior, old men trembled, matrons wept,

the swarthy maiden's cheek turned pale, and sighs and half suppressed sobs escaped from the motley group, as they passed along, some on foot, some on horseback, and others in wagons--sad as a funeral procession." And thus, the Indians left our township, leaving the land they loved, that our forefathers might establish homes and pass on to us the great heritage that we have.

Mr. Wisel also related the story of how his father, Otis Wisel, would drive his team of oxen to Fort Wayne after salt, flour, and groceries. One time when he was gone on this three or four day trip, the Indians became noisy and loud when darkness fell and kept running up and down the trail. Mrs. Wisel became so frightened that she took her boys, Daniel and Otis Jr., and, making a hole in a large fodder shock in the back yard, she spent the night there.

Mr. and Mrs. Otis Wisel later bought 160 acres south of Salem Center, in section 22, and after his death, the land was divided among his children, Daniel, George, and Elizabeth. A son, Otis Jr., passed away in 1906.

Uncle Dan Wisel's brother, George (1850-1908), married Anna Combs and their children were Elsie, Anna, Sabrina, Tillie, and George Jr. Elsie Wisel, who taught for many years in Salem Township, has retired and lives in her pleasant farm home south of Salem where her parents lived years before. Anna Wisel married Charles Twitchell and had one son, Jonas. Mrs. Twitchell taught school and was also a nurse. Jonas married Margaret Stout and their children are Billie, Anna Bell, Eleanor, Elsie, and Susie who live in Norwalk, Ohio.

Sabrina married Ray Teeters and their daughter, Helene, married



Robert Notestine and has four children, Stephen, Jean, Julia, and Stanley. Tillie taught for several years in the township but after her marriage in 1916 to Amos Grady she moved to Angola where she now resides. Mr. Grady died in 1929. George Wisel Jr. died in 1946, leaving four children, namely: Kathryn, Lorraine, George III, and Victor. Kathryn married Edwin Watkins and their children are Joan Carol, Mary Elaine, Kathy, and John. Their home is in San Pedro, California. Lorraine married Foster Edmunds and they make their home in Alabama. George III married Irene Phillips and their children are Agnes, Ned, Alice, and Georgetta. They live in Ashley, Indiana. Victor Wisel married Alice Bennett. Their children are Vicki, Patricia, and Joan Carol. They live in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Uncle Dan Wisel married Florinda Shaffer in 1866 and four children were born to them. Two died in infancy, one son, Elmer, died in 1941, and the daughter, Cora, lives in Salem Township. Dan Wisel was the first assessor and walked to Angola to see the auditor.

The Wisel family can be proud of the place that they fill in the history of Salem Township. There are only a few seven generation families in the township, and the Wisels are one of them.

David Wisel Sr. (1777-1843)	Ellis Wisel (1895- )
Otis Bent Wisel (1810-1906)	Daniel A. Wisel (1920- )
Daniel Wisel (1837-1940)	Daniel Leroy Wisel (1944- )
Elmer Wisel (1867-1941)	

Strange as it may seem, Daniel A. Wisel owns and operates a portion of the original plot belonging to Otis B. Wisel. He lives in the newly remodelled home with his wife, Norma Coney Wisel and three children, Loretta, Leroy, and Rickie.

Early in the year 1837 Elder Locke, who settled in section 15 where Vern Weicht lives, organized a Christian Church of nine members, and for the first years held Sunday School at his house. Nancy Locke, age fourteen, died November 22, 1837, and the following summer in one week, Elder Locke buried his two youngest children, Ezra and Lydia. Those three were the first white settlers buried in the Hollister graveyard. This cemetery is across the road from the pleasant farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Klink in section 11. Mr. A. Hollister gave the land for this burial ground and it has always carried the name of Hollister.

Mr. Locke, hearing that salt was brought in from Fort Wayne, started for some. He had to pay \$10 for a barrel of salt and a dollar and a half for the night's lodging. A great number of cows died the first spring because they did not have suitable food and shelter.

Joel Locke, the son of Elder Joseph Locke, married Betsy Call and lived one mile west of Salem Center on the farm now owned by his grandson, Ross Courtright. In 1854, Joel Locke embraced the truth of the third angel's message at Salem Center, under the preaching of Elder Joseph Bates. Both Mr. and Mrs. Locke remained faithful members of the Seventh Day Advent Church and, like his father, Joel preached for many years. He died in 1908 and Mrs. Locke passed away March 28, 1900. They are both buried in the Hollister Cemetery.

The Locke family is another seven generation family that has made Salem Township their home.

Elder Joseph Locke (1795-1856)

Joel Locke (1831-1908)

Celestia Locke (1857-1937) married Jonathan Courtright

Ross Courtright (1878- )

Dick Courtright (1906- )

Donna Lou Courtright Allen (1931- )

Cynthia Ann Allen (1951- ) married Robert Allen



Richard Lee Courtright, 1933, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Courtright and is serving in the United States Armed Forces at the present time. Other descendants of Elder Joseph Locke living in the township are Mrs. Geraldine Courtright Lepley, Mrs. May Courtright Hall, Mrs. Lillie Courtright Whysong, Mrs. Byrdena Alleshouse Boots, Mrs. Delia Parker McLain, Mr. Robert Greenman, and Mr. Dale Alleshouse, Roger Boots, and Chester Boots.

The immigrant Eli Teal (1851-1899) entered land in 1836, in section 9. He returned to Ohio to marry Sarah Teal and brought his young bride back into the wilderness of Salem Township. He drove the team and brought two Negro slaves, but, living in a community of abolitionists, it was necessary that he free them. In the autumn of 1837, he built the first frame house in the township. Mr. and Mrs. Teal had four children, but three died in infancy. Mrs. Elizabeth Richardson, who lived one half mile west of Salem, was the sole survivor. Mrs. Zella Ripey Barto now owns and lives on the farm of Mrs. Richardson.

At the time of Mr. Teal's death, he was the only man in Steuben County that died on the land he entered from the government. This land is now owned by William G. Milleman who has restored the original Teal house into a pleasant modern home.

Ed Teal (1807-1880) came to Salem Township at the same time as Eli. He married Sarah Stevenson. Before Steuben County was organized, a Methodist Class at Crusan's Corners in Salem Township.

Ed H. Hammond (1805-1875) came to Salem Township in 1836 with the Teal brother and entered land in section 4. Mr. Hammond cleared his land and at the same time worked with Mr. Teal at the blacksmith trade.

They were the first blacksmiths in Salem Township. Ed Hammond was twice married, his first wife was Eli Teal's mother, Elizabeth Teal. His second wife was Mrs. Frances (Teal) Kaufman. He had no children but adopted Arthur Kirlin (1851). Arthur K. Hammond married Nancy Morrison. They had three children, Clyde, Schuyler Creighton, and Edith. Clyde (deceased) married Inez Spero, they had no children. Schuyler married Edna Brandeberry and had two children. They reside in New Mexico. Edith married Flem Bodley and had one daughter, Helen. Edith passed away when Helen was a small girl and the home was then mothered by Helen's grandmother, Nancy Hammond, who was affectionately called Aunt Nan by all who knew her.

Arthur K. Hammond was married three times. He spent his early life in Salem Township, then moved to Fort Wayne where he became a doctor. He spent some years in Texas and then returned to Salem Center where he died in 1944. His widow, Ina Briggs Hammond, resides in Salem at the present time.

On the third of October 1836, John Wilson, and Charles and John Bodley came to Salem Township. Very soon after their arrival on October 3, 1836, Mr. and Mrs. John Bodley became the parents of a son whom they called William. He was the first white child born in the township. The John Bodley family did not stay very long in Salem Township, but travelled on westward where William Bodley died at the age of fifteen.

During the summer and fall of 1858, chills and fever, dysentery, and ague prevailed until there were not enough well people to take care of the sick or properly care for their dead. One early settler came with his family and put up with John Bodley until he could erect a log cabin. Before the cabin was completed,



the man became ill and died. Charles Bodley and David Wisel Jr. made the coffin, and when they took it to John Bodley's, they found the dead man's son dying. There were not enough men to bury the father, so they sent word around for all who were able to come the next afternoon, and help with the burial. Mr. Bodley and Mr. Wisel made a coffin for the son and the next day they managed to get the two men buried. The widow returned to her former home.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bodley were among the first settlers and built a log house in section 16 across the road from where Mervin Tilbury lives at the present. This cabin was built by a spring and was the first house built in the township. Mr. and Mrs. Bodley had ten children, but none is living in the township. He was a teacher, carpenter, and farmer. They belong to the Advent Church. Mr. Bodley died in 1881 and Mrs. Bodley died at the home of her daughter in Homer, Michigan in 1900.

Thus came the early settler to Salem Township. They cleared the land, established homes, built schools and churches, and started the rural community that we enjoy today.

## BUTLER CORNERS

Among the first settlers that journeyed westward to Salem Township were three Butler brothers, namely, Jesse, Daniel, and Loren Butler, sons of Benjamin Butler who died in 1831.

An interesting account has been recorded of the Butler brother's trip to Indiana. During the spring of 1838 they sold their home in North Island, Grand Isle County, Vermont and with the family of Isaac Prentice traveled by canal boat and lake vessel to Toledo, Ohio. Here they remained a week while Daniel bought two yoke of oxen and several cows. A good two horse wagon provided with a large long rack was covered with canvas and made what was then called the "Prairie Schooner". Into this rack all the household goods of three families were placed. The children, who were too small to walk were placed in the wagon also and enough room was allowed for the women to climb in when they became too tired to walk.

Thus arranged, when ready, two yoke of oxen were hitched on and the Prairie Schooner, with its precious cargo started for its Indiana home up the Toledo and Chicago Pike. On and on, day after day, with ox-like speed came the pioneers. They passed through Coldwater, from there to Bronson, then turning south, they came through Orland. Eight or ten log houses, one frame building, and a hotel made up the village of Orland. It was July 4, 1838 when the Butlers came to Orland, and there was a hundred or more men, women, and children, with anvils, flint lock guns and "horse pistols" celebrating the holiday.

Loren started the same day from North Island with a good span of horses, and coming a shorter route, he reached Jackson



Prairie some ten days earlier. The Butler families stayed two or three days with Adolphus Town and then moved into a vacant blacksmith shop. Here they remained until the first of September. They had decided they did not want to settle on the prairie because they wanted trees. So Jesse, Daniel, and Loren bought a tract of land of Benjamin Murphy in sections 6-8 in Salem Township. The Murphys occupied the log house built on the side hill, forty rods west of the Butler Four Corners. All these three Butler families and the Prentice family moved into the log house with the Murphys, making twenty-eight persons.

In a few weeks, all came down with fever, ague, and malarial fever. Some shook everyday and others only every other day. All the neighbors were shaking just the same, so the settlers had the satisfaction of knowing that the ague was no respecter of persons. This malarial condition continued for four or five years with some occasional intermissions.

In about eight weeks the Murphy family moved out of the hive and in the spring the Prentice family moved to Ohio.

Loren Butler, whose wife was Malita Town, built a small frame house on the northwest corner of the Butler Corners. They had no children. Loren Butler died in 1849, and his wife died in 1892.

Jesse Butler established Butler Corners, for it was he who paced the distance of one and one-half mile from the Block Church Corner. In later years when the land was surveyed it was found to be just a few feet short of the one and one-half miles and some apple trees, planted by Daniel Butler were in the road and had to be removed.

Jesse Butler, whose wife was Fanny Stephens built a log house on the south east corner of Butler Corners, near the house

where the Benjamin Hayward family resided in later years. Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Butler were the parents of four children, Seymour S., Mary Jane, James W., and Perthenia who died in 1888.

Seymour S. Butler (1832-1882) married Albina L. Conger (1837-1916). They had eight children, Roeliff, Loren, Ora, Fred, and four died in infancy.

Roeliff married Dora Spears (1868-1945), and their children were Selwyn, R. Kay, Albina, Jessie, Dale, Cyllene, Angelia, and Wilma. Selwyn Butler (deceased) married Erma Shaffer and their two sons are Seymour and Dean. Seymour and his mother maintain their home near Butler Corners. Dean is married and is attending Indiana University. R. Kay Butler married Opal Myers and their children are Richard and Janet. They reside in Ft. Wayne. Albina Butler married Grover Cool and their children are James, John, Dora, and Roberta. James Cool married Rosemary Hollopeter and their son is Stephen. John Cool resides at home. Dora Cool married Robert Clark, and they reside in Salem Township. Roberta Cool married William Hendricks and they reside in Maryland where both have served in the Navy. Jessie Butler never married and resides in Toledo, Ohio. Dale (1894-1949) married Esther Shaffer. Their children were Anna Rose, Lorene, and Delmar (deceased). Anna Rose married Wayne Eckert. Their children are Jerry and Ned. They reside in Salem Township. Lorene Butler married John Hoopengartner and their children are Kay and Gail. They live in Ft. Wayne. Cyllene Butler married William Woolstencroft and lives at White Bear Lake, Minnesota. Their children are William Jr., Ruth, and Dean. Angelia Butler married Ferman Fiantdt and their children are Kathryn, Ruth, Ferman Jr., Betty, and Marjorie.



Kathryn Fiandt married Leroy Stoll and has one son, James. Ruth Fiandt married William Olinger. Their children are Phyllis Ann, Russell, and Stephen. Ferman Jr. married Arcile Hampshire, and their children are Christine and Michael. Betty Fiandt married Ralph Nelson and had one child named Cynthia Ann. Marjorie Fiandt married John Holt. Wilma Butler married George Foster. Their two children were Ralph and Helen. Ralph is married and has two children, Susan and Jacqueline. Helen Foster married Andrew Smith. Wilma Butler Foster is the postmistress at Kimmell, Indiana.

The family of Roeliff Butler has an outstanding military record and one that would be hard to equal, for seventeen members have served their country in some branch of the armed forces.

Loren Butler never married, but shared the home of his widowed mother, where Mervin Tilbury now lives.

Ora Butler married Lou Stoddard (1882-1944) and lived in the home in section 8 which he now shares with his brothers, Roeliff and Loren. Ora has been active in the Farm Bureau and other County Organizations.

Fred Butler (1873-1947) married Blanche Woodford (1879-1907) and their children were Mildred and Don. Mildred Butler married Wilmot Hawes and their children are Evelyn, Marjorie, and Janet. They live in Steuben Township. Don Butler married Geraldine Wimer and their children are Fred Arthur, and Steven. They live in Auburn.

Six generations of the Jesse Butler family have resided in Salem Township:

Jesse Butler ( -1874)  
Seymour S. Butler (1832-1882)  
Roeliff Butler (1860- )  
Dale Butler (1894-1949)  
Anna Rose Butler Eckert (1920- )  
Jerry W. Eckert (1946- )

Aunt Albina Butler, as she was called by all who knew her, possessed a character of great determination and will power. For a period of years she kept a diary of all family and community events. This diary consists of several volumes and is in the home of her sons. I was pleased to have the opportunity to read through it. Its pages contain the thoughts and workings of a pioneer mother, and in no way could these writings be replaced.

Nearly every day, baking was done, usually from six to twelve pies, two cakes, bread, cookies, rusk, and cinnamon rolls. Each spring the rag carpets were taken up, ripped apart, washed, and then sewed together, and put down on the floor. After the threshing was finished the straw ticks were emptied and refilled with fresh straw. The flock of geese was picked often and new pillows were made for neighbors, friends, and family. Water was poured on the leach a few days before the soap making. When the day came, a large iron kettle of soft soap was made outside. When the apples were harvested, large kettles of apple butter were made outside and many apples were dried and sold, to help pay taxes and buy winter clothing. The cane was taken to South Milford to be made into sorghum.

The social activities of sixty years ago were both entertaining and constructive. Aunt Albina's life was full of pleasures



and happiness shared by neighbors and friends. Often she speaks of driving the old horse, Topsy, through mud, snow, and dust to visit friends. Nearly every Sunday they drove to church services at the Block Church. Tent meetings at Morgan School, Church at East Trinity, Sunday School in Gillespie School were all attended by the Butler family. Mention is made of Mr. West preaching in 1896 at the Block Church. An Indian Medicine Show, (1897), Literary and Musical Program at the Burg (Salem in 1897), Barn Raising at Erdley McLains (1898), a sing at George Parkers (1898), Soldier's Picnic in LaDow's Woods (1898), Husking Bee for Dell Wood (1898), Magic Lantern Show at the Burg (1898) all added variety, amusement, and enjoyment to the community's social life.

In January 1897, the thermometer went down to 24 degrees below zero, and Aunt Albina states that it would have gone farther but the thermometer was too short.

Hospitals were a luxury not to be enjoyed by our pioneer ancestors. The older women administered to the needs of the sick and the men shared the hours of "sitting up" with the patients. The Butler boys, Roeliff, Loren, and Ora often assisted in the homes where sickness and death had entered. After a death occurred, the church bell at Salem was tolled as many times as the deceased person was years old.

One of the Butler boys would walk to the Burg in the evening to get the mail and groceries. In 1901 eggs were sold for 8¢ a dozen. Brown flour was 12lb. for 25¢, white flour was 25 lb. for 55¢. Hogs brought 6¢ a pound. Money was scarce, but life was filled with a hope and determination to overcome the hardships that existed.

Mary Jane Butler (1835-1918), daughter of Jesse Butler, married Levi Newton Bodley (1830-1919). They were the parents of seven children: Warren V. (died in infancy), Jesse. W., Guy C., Gertie N., Susie E., Flem W., and Isaac D. Only two of these children are living at the present time. They are Flem W. and Isaac D. Flem married Edith Hammond and has one daughter, Helen. Flem makes his home with his daughter, who married Harold Stevens and lives in Angola. Helen and Harold Stevens have three daughters, Beverly, who married Donn Wm. Laird, and has two daughters, Susan Beverly and Martha Nancy. They live in Duarto, California. Donna who teaches in Modesto, California, and Nancy at home.

Flem Bodley remembers many experiences of the early days in Salem Township as he helped clear the land on his granfather's farm. On Saturday and Sunday nights the young men would walk six to ten miles to see the girl of their choice. Flem remembers how his sister Gertie walked from the family home where Erma Butler maintains a home, to within a mile of Hudson, a total of twelve miles, for the purpose of signing for a teaching job. Indians were numerous in the vicinity where the Bodley's lived and were friendly and kind. They would often gather berries for their white neighbors in exchange for bread or cake. Back of Sam Greeno's farm home was the first Indian corn field that was cleared by the red men. Farmers in these sections have found many Indian relics. Flem recalls hearing his grandfather tell about a white settler that stole a deer that the Indians had hung up to butcher. The Indians were so infuriated that the white settler had to leave the township.



Isaac D. Bodley married Mabel Amerman, and to them were born three children: Katy, Martha and William. Katy Bodley married Merritt Boyer. Katy lives and teaches in Angola. Martha Bodley married Virgil McClish and has three girls and a boy. They live east of Angola. William Bodley married Phyllis Hughes and has one child, Connie Lee.

James W. (1843-1895), son of Jesse Butler, married Elnora Wright (1845-1885). They had four children, namely, Elbridge E., Clara May, Cora, and Lura, but none of them are living.

Clara May Butler (deceased) married James B. Hayward (deceased), and lived part of her married life on the homestead where she died. She was the mother of seven children: Lloyd, who died in infancy, Elsie Crundell, Imo Lambert, Birdena (deceased), James, Edgar Elbridge (deceased), and Robert Benjamin (deceased). No members of this family are living in Salem Township.

Lura Butler (deceased) married Edward Bussell (deceased) and lived in Hebron, Nebraska. They had two daughters.

Elbridge E. Butler (1865-1950) married Elizabeth Emerson (1868-1941). They were the parents of four children: Monroe, George, James A., who died in infancy, and John Elbridge (1900-1948). Monroe married Irene DeLong. They have six children: Ruth, Jean, Ralph, James, Mary, and Richard. Ruth Butler married Robert Stroh. Their children are Sandra and Janet. They live near Fremont. Jean Butler married William Sanders, and they live in the vicinity of Orland. Ralph Butler married Ruth Jones and have two sons, John and Gary. They live in South Bend. James Butler married Joan Nowicki. Their sons are Jeffery and Douglas and reside near Orland.

Mary Butler married Herman Lee Strawser. Their daughters are Vicki Lynn and Toni Sue. This family lives in Salem Township, a mile south of Butler Corners. Richard Butler makes his home with his parents.

George Butler married Margaret Emerson, and to them were born three daughters: Helen, Anna Rose, and Marie. Helen Butler married Robert Gonser and has one daughter, Elizabeth. Anna Rose Butler married John Clark and has two sons, George and Brent. Marie Butler married Leonard Brouse and has Pentha and Craig. Like their mother, these girls have all been successful teachers. Helen specialized in Home Economics and taught for some time in Auburn, Indiana. Anna Rose chose the primary school and taught in Steuben County. Marie taught art in the Sturgis, Michigan Schools, where she resides. This family has not only served the community as teachers, but have shared their musical abilities wherever needed.

John Butler married Ruby Boyer, and they had one son, John Frederick. John is married and has three daughters.

Cora Barkley, who made her home with the Elbridge Butlers, married Ralph Leas, and their daughters are Coralyn and Gladys. Coralyn Leas married Edward Greenfield and had two sons. One died in early childhood, and David is at home. Gladys Leas is a commercial teacher in the Angola Public Schools. Ralph Leas is a mail carrier for the Hudson Rural Route, in addition to being a successful farmer. The Leas family take an active part in the activities of the Presbyterian Church at Salem, and other organizations within the township.

Daniel Butler, son of Benjamin Butler, married Mary Prentiss. This pioneer family had five children that survived childhood: Susan, Harriet, Henry P., Marvin B., and Helen M. Susan Butler



married William Ellison, who lived only a few years. Her second husband was Robert Bell (1803-1871). He is the same Robert Bell, that built the cabin where the Wisels and Lockes took shelter when they arrived in Salem Township. Robert Bell settled on the farm now owned by Oakley Amerman in section 4. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bell had five children: Daniel, Junius, Sumner, Robert, and Susie. Daniel Bell died in 1876, Junius died in 1880, Sumner (1860-1948) married Mae Newman, and they had seven children: Charlie, Zell, Catherine, Clementine (deceased), Dot (deceased), Paul (deceased), and Uhl of Ft. Wayne. Robert Bell Jr. (1862-1945) never married. Susie Bell (1865-1946) married Henry Weaver (1859-1928).

Henry Weaver's parents settled in Salem Township, west of Butler Corners on the farm which has been occupied by the Al Warstler family for over forty years. About 1887 Mr. and Mrs. Henry Weaver moved to Salem Center where he operated a Barber Shop until 1929. Five children were born to Susie and Henry Weaver. They were Frank and Paul who died in infancy, Fred (1887-1930), Ruth, and Mildred. Fred Weaver married Ethel Bolan, and had one son, Jack. Jack Weaver married Jane Patrick and has a daughter, Karen. They live in Texas. Ruth Weaver married Elmer Tritch and has two daughters Marie and Priscilla. Marie Tritch married Gordon Paul, and Priscilla Tritch married Doyle Hoopengartner. They reside in Michigan. Elmer Tritch was killed in an automobile accident in 1950. Mildred Weaver married Ted R. Law. They have two children, Norma and Warren Jo. They reside in Angola, Indiana. Mildred Weaver Law taught for 9 years in the Public Schools of Steuben County. She is an active supporter of the Camp Fire Girls Organization.

It was in the home of Robert Bell that a class of the M. E. Church was organized in 1838. The first members of that class

were: Robert Bell and wife, Susan, Edward T. Hammond and wife, Mrs. Mary Butler and probably a few others. Services were held at private homes for some time and later at the log school house in section 4.

Henry P. Butler, son of Daniel, married Phebe Clark. Their three children were Melvin C., Wallace W., and Alberta.

Marvin B. Butler married Harriet Fuller. Two children survived, Benjamin M. and Harry M. The history of this family is given under the topic of "The Underground Railroad".

Helen Butler, daughter of Daniel, married David Gillespie. Five children survived them: Lester, William, Orla, Nellie, and Maude. Orla (deceased) married Addie Wilson (deceased), and had one daughter, Opal, who married Bert Van Pelt. They had one daughter, Janet, who is the wife of Ross Daily, and one daughter was born to them. None of them reside in the township.

After the death of Daniel Butler, the sons, Henry P. and Marvin, came in possession of the farm on the south west corner of Butler Corners. Across the road on the east side was a sawmill operated by the Butlers in about 1870. South of where the barn stands now was a sorghum and cider mill. Newton Bodley was an active helper in these mills.

The Butler families were faithful church people and Sunday after Sunday, in the Block Church, Uncle Newton Bodley would offer this prayer which was kept by John Parsell and given to this chapter by Florence Parsell Covill.

"God grant that the young folks of Salem and all the region 'round about shall grow up to be a people, zealous of good work and whose God is the Lord."



## UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN SALEM TOWNSHIP

When Salem Township was very young and before the Civil War, an Underground Railroad Station was established in Section 8 at the home of Henry and Marvin Butler, who were sons of the pioneer, Daniel Butler. This land is now owned by Dr. O. W. Hildebrand of Kendallville and occupied by the family of the late Clarence Milleman. The present frame house is the one used for the run-away slaves. The construction of the upstairs was such that escape was possible from any part.

To the younger generations it may be necessary to explain what is meant by the "underground railroad". The Southern states claimed the right under the United States Constitution to keep and hold slaves. The mass of citizens living in the northern states were opposed to slavery, and were called abolitionists. The true abolitionist, wherever found was ready at all times to aid the colored slaves in escaping from their southern masters, to Canada, where at once they would become free. In order to assist the slaves in making a safe getaway, it was considered best to transport the colored people by night as much as possible, in order that they would not be seen. During the day they were concealed in some abolitionist's house or barn and when darkness came, the fleeing slaves would be placed in a covered rig or carefully tucked under a load of straw, and as quickly as possible they would be taken to the next station. The people who assisted the slaves were known as "conductors", and the homes where they were concealed were called "stations". Any one of the neighboring families of the Butler family would have aided the slaves. John Paarsell purchased this farm from Henry Butler.

For many years he was active in the progress of the township. After moving to Angola, he still maintained his interests in the growth of Salem Township.

Mr. Marvin Butler (1834-1914) lived most of his life in Salem Township, and was the author of the book, "My Story of the Civil War and the Underground Railroad". There were several routes taken by the Underground Railroad, but the one that interests us the most is the one that started at Cincinnati, Ohio, passed through Richmond, Winchester, Portland, Decatur, Ft. Wayne, Kendallville, Salem Station, Orland, Coldwater and so on to Canada. With the termination of the Civil War and the emancipation of the Negro by President Lincoln, the slave question was forever settled and the "Underground Railroad" had passed into the annals of history.

Lieut. M. B. Butler, who served through the Civil War in the Forty-fourth Indiana Regiment, was a member of the Presbyterian Church, served as county recorder, county auditor in 1875, and one term in the Indiana Legislature. He married Harriet Fuller and had three sons: Albert, Benjamin, and Harry. Albert died in infancy, Benjamin in 1915, and Harry in 1899.

Benjamin Butler married Unah Woodford in 1892, and to them were born four children: Arthur who died in infancy, Carlton, Florence, and Mary.

Carlton Butler married Aleen Blial and their children were Betty (1921-1951), Bobby (1925-1946), and Donald. Betty married Clair Moore and their children were Jerry, Douglas, and Peggy. They live in Detroit. Donald married Twila Comport. Their children are Lila, Donna, and Robert Butler. Mary Butler married Henry Janning and lives in East St. Louis, Illinois, where



she has taught for some time.

Florence married Ralph Jones and their children are: Joyelene, Edward, Lewis, and Mary. Joyelene Jones married Boyd Friskney and their children are Carolyn Sue and Connie Joan. They reside in Ohio. Edward married Ruby Ann Love and has a son Jimm Edward. They live in Auburn.

Six generations of this Butler family have been closely associated with Salem Township.

Daniel Butler (       -1847)  
 Marvin Butler (1834-1914)  
 Benjamin Butler (1868-1915)  
 Florence Butler Jones (1898-       )  
 Edward Jones (1929-       )  
 Jimm Edward Jones (1953-       )

## THE VILLAGE OF SALEM CENTER

Within Salem Township are three small villages, Hudson, Helmer, and Salem. Of these three Salem is the oldest and the smallest. In this year, 1954, only twenty-two families live in Salem, and they make up a population of about sixty-five persons.

Salem has long been called the "Burg" by the villagers and surrounding farmers. Because the Wisels settled at this place in 1836, it was called Wiselberg. When the name Salem was chosen in 1837, the name Wiselberg no longer applied, but it seems that the word "Burg" was never forgotten and has been used by many, down through the years.

In 1843 William Austin built a huge log building on the site of the present brick buildings, in which he and Edward Wright opened the first store. This store changed owners several times, and at times there would be no place for trade and at other times there would be none. Adolphus Gale and W. W. Braden were one of the owners of the store. Dr. J. C. Kimsey bought the building and used the timbers for fuel. He sold the lot to Mr. James Richards, who built thereon a frame building, the first story being used for shop and the second story by the Masonic Fraternity. About 1862, E. T. Hammond and Casper Congers bought this building and fitted it up for a store. Later it was bought by John Carey Sr. who carried on a mercantile business for several years. In 1871 it was burned, but Mr. Carey rebuilt on the same lot and sold to F. J. Warner who sold it to Hammond, Dole, and Stevenson, who in turn sold to Henry Amerman, and he moved the stock to Stroh. Frank Dole then occupied the building until it burned in 1896. He had an arrangement in the back of his store where the farmers could bring their wheat and exchange it for flour. Dr. J.C. Kimsey's



residence, which stood north of the present brick building, and Dr. M. T. Clay's residence and drug store, which stood south of the present brick building, were burned at the same time.

After the fire the Odd Fellows built the north half of the present brick block, the lower room being used by various parties for mercantile business. The Knights of Pythias built the upper part of the south half of the block, and L. D. Munger the lower story. Mr. Munger sold his interest to William Kimsey, who added to the structure, and together with Thomas R. Marshall were partners in the mercantile business.

Thomas R. Marshall was not active in the operation of the Kimsey-Marshall store as he practiced law and later became Governor of Indiana. He was Vice President of the United States during the administration of Woodrow Wilson. Thomas R. Marshall married Lois Kimsey, the daughter of W. E. Kimsey. They were married in the house now occupied by the William Van Pelt family, which was the Kimsey home at that time. Mr. Kimsey operated a store in the south part, which has stood vacant for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall never resided in Salem.

A wagon shop was built by Amos Kirkwood on the northeast corner of the village, and he carried on a business there for several years. The Masonic Fraternity bought this building and used the upper room for lodge purposes. The Masons sold the building to Richardson and Teal, who opened therein, the first hardware store in the village. In 1882, David Haskins purchased the hardware, and carried on the business for some time. A smaller building stood east of this hardware store and was used as a grocery and ice cream parlor.

Many names are associated with the mercantile business of

Salem Village. Some of them are: M B. Butler, Theodore Hopkins, Dan Tritch, Sam and I. S. Parsell, Dell Stevenson, Fred Spears, Orla Parker, Tom Parker, Will Haskins, John Greeno, William Lepley, Abijah Emerson, William Amerman, Frank and Lou Dole, Henry Oberlin, John Somerlott, Lyle Shank, Art Grabill, Charlie Brown, Loyce Whysong, and probably many more.

In 1885, the business of Salem Center was represented by the following firms: William E. Kimsey, general merchant; Hammond, Dole, and Co., general merchants; David Haskins, hardware and groceries; M. T. Clay, druggist; J. C. Kimsey, druggist; M. T. Clay, physician; M. Barnes, blacksmith; Haskins and Green, blacksmiths.

The Kimsey family were long time merchants in the village. W. E. Kimsey owned the farm just east of Salem. The large spacious house was one of the largest and luxurious in the township. Mr. Kimsey, a lover of trees, had his home surrounded by orchards, cherry pear, peach, and apple. For many years people came from near and far to buy fruit. He was also a bee fancier, and had many hives of bees among his orchards. Mr. Kimsey married Elizabeth Dole, and they had three children, Wallace, Lois, and Morton. Wallace Kimsey was associated with his father in the mercantile business and finally became sole owner of the store. Wallace left Salem in 1920 and went to Arizona to join his parents who had moved there previously, for health reasons. Wallace died in 1932. Lois Kimsey Marshall is still living and resides in Phoenix, Arizona. Morton Kimsey and family reside in Scottsdale, Arizona. Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Kimsey died some years ago and are buried in the Angola cemetery.

The Kimsey farm passed through several transactions, and in 1948 it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Baillie of Auburn.



Mr. Baillie passed away in 1951, and Mrs. Baillie resides on the farm. She is active in the Presbyterian Church and Township Organizations and clubs.

Of the many merchants who maintained a business in Salem Center, during the years of its existence, George Mills deserves the honor and praise of the entire community for his endless years of patient toil and faithfulness to his fellowmen. George was employed in the brick store by the Kimseys, and when it was sold to Fred Spears in 1920, he still remained. In a few years he became the sole owner and continued the business until 1948 at which time he was forced to quit because of his health, and during that summer he passed away.

George Mills married Maude Barnes and three children were born to them, Marguerite, Cleo, and Earl. Marguerite Mills married Russell Goodrich and has two children, Rosabell Barker, and Gene, a student at Purdue. They reside in Chicago. Cleo Mills lives in Montpelier, Ohio and is the father of seven children: Ralph, Warren, Judy, Jerry, Jack, Jill, and a small baby. Warren Mills was killed during World War II. Earl Mills married Juanita Brown and they live in Ft. Wayne with their sons, Ronald and Douglas. Mrs. Maude Mills maintains her home in Salem Center but visits her children during the winter months. Mrs. Mills was an active member of the Methodist Church. For many years she and Susie Weaver taught in the Sunday School and were active in all branches of the church.

After the death of George Mills the store passed through several transactions, and was finally closed. Mr. Lint of Shipshewana was the last owner. The store building, which comprises the south half of the brick building was sold to Mr. C.W. Chadwick

of Pleasant Lake. In 1954, he sold it to Mr. Steve Rotter of Chicago.

On the south west corner of Salem, Hogan and VanPelt engaged in business, probably in the 1850's or 1860's. There were two buildings, a grocery and a blacksmith shop. Jesse Miller was the first blacksmith in the village. Marcus Barnes, father of Maude Mills, had a blacksmith shop on the south west corner for some years. One of the last blacksmiths in Salem was Homer LaDow, who used the south west corner shop for a time and later built his own shop north of Salem near the LaDow home. Russell Wood used this shop for a time before moving to Mongo. Then a Miller carried on the business, and he was probably the last blacksmith in Salem village. Homer LaDow resides in Salem at the present time with his two aged sisters, Jeanette (1869- ), who was a dressmaker in Salem for thirty years, and Harriet (1873- ). His daughter, Thelma, also makes her home with them.

Mark (1811-1901) and Margaret (1814-1887) LaDow came to Salem Township in 1845 and settled in section 2, in the vicinity of where James Emerson now lives. They had three children: Jeanette, who died in childhood, Harriet LaDow Bryan, who resided in Montana, and Frank LaDow. In 1851, the family moved to LaGrange County. Here they lived twelve years and suffered all the hardships inseparable from pioneer life, not the least of which was persecution by the Spiritualists, who were at that time numerous in eastern LaGrange County, and who persecuted Mrs. LaDow for her fearless denunciation of their false teachings. In 1863, they returned to settle on the farm in sections 9 and 10 which they owned for many years. Frank LaDow (1844-1917) married Nancy Courtright (1850-1929) in 1868 and they had four children: Jeanette, Harriet, Hettie,



and Homer. Frank LaDow served for two years in the Civil War. Since 1863 the LaDow family have lived in Salem. They have administered much to the community in helping care for the sick and lending a helping hand wherever needed. The home of Nancy and Frank LaDow was always open to any one who desired food or lodging. Mr. LaDow was always sharing her beautiful flowers, her comfortable home and pleasant surroundings with her neighbors and friends. Janeth, wife of David Ryder, is the fifth generation of the LaDow family.

Through the years, Salem was the home of several physicians who cared for the sick in the community. Mention is made of Dr. Bevier, who came in 1848 as the first doctor. Dr. A. G. Parsell was the second and then came J. C. Kimsey in 1855. Among later physicians were Dr. McHenry, Dr. L. C. Grossman, Dr. M. T. Clay, Dr. Harley Cunningham, Dr. Witmarsh, Dr. Emay Sherrow, Dr. Burdette Goodale, Dr. Firestone, and probably others.

One of the early business enterprises in Salem was an ashery built by Austin and Wright at an early date. This ashery stood on the northeast corner of Salem, back from the road a distance on what is now the Fred Shull farm. Trees and brush were burned and the ashes were leached to obtain lye. The lye was boiled down to a black salt which was sent away and made into potash. Saleratus or baking soda was also a product of the ashery.

Another industry in Salem was a pottery owned by Elder Ball. Brown earthenware crocks, pitchers, etc. were made, the clay being formed around a wooden mold and then baked and dipped in some liquid to give them a glaze or vitrified surface.

Directly south of William VanPelt's house in Salem was a small building where Henry Weaver maintained a barber shop and shoe repair

shop for many years. He began his work in 1887 and continued until 1929. This building was erected by Dr. Bevier, the first physician, who came in 1848. It was sold to Elder Ball and then Amos Kirkwood for store purposes. It was attached to the house where Wade Strawser now lives and used as a residence at one time. It was later moved out of Salem by Harold Gantt.

One of the first public buildings to be erected in Salem was a log school house, which was built on the northwest corner where the James Rowe family now lives. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Slick, and Aunt Amy Diffenbaugh lived on this same corner. The log school house was built in the autumn of 1841 and was the second one built in the township. The first teacher was Eliza Swink; another teacher was Hiram Lewis, a brother of D. B. Lewis. This was later razed and another log building erected west of the village. The seats consisted of split logs placed around the sides of the room. The desks were rough boards placed on pegs driven into the walls of the room. Steel pens, lead pencils, and tablets were unknown, but quill pens and slates did good service, and many became proficient in reading, writing, spelling, and arithmetic. The school often numbered seventy-five, and order was preserved by the old fashioned swith, the older pupils getting the "lickings" while the younger ones were frightened into good behaviour by the scene. The pupils were allowed to use different reading books, such as Sunday School books, Aesops Fables, etc. The school house provided a place for such gatherings as church and singing schools. Billy Heathe was the singing master, and he taught by rule. William Kimsey remembered the first poetry learned at singing



school and is as follows:

One sharp is the key of G  
Two sharps the key of D, sir,  
Three sharps is the key of A  
And four the key of E, sir.

For lighting the building, candles were placed in boards. At the close of a singing school some one thoughtlessly left a candle burning and the building was set on fire and burned to the ground. In the building was a small Sunday School library which was saved by Dr. Kimsey.

School was then taught for a time in a log building that stood a few rods south of where Russell Jackson operates a garage and grocery. This was the school where Daniel Wisel attended. Eliza Wright was the first teacher.

In 1857, the citizens of the district built the first frame school house on the site of the one that burned, west of the village. The land was leased from Mark LaDow and is owned by Dale Hughes at the present time. Orson Woodford taught in the new building for several years. In 1892 or 1893, the frame structure was abandoned for the new brick building, east of the village. Emmett Wherley was the last teacher in the frame building, and the first teacher in the new brick school. These first schools were subscription schools, supported by the families who had children. Besides money, they furnished the wood. The teachers boarded and roomed with various families as part of their pay. School was in session for three terms, fall, winter, and spring. In 1852, free schools were introduced in Indiana, and school procedures were changed.

After the frame building was no longer used for school purposes, it became the property of Mark LaDow. He traded the building to Rowd Munger for a gray horse. The building was left on the

original site and Mr. Munger and Garrett Amerman made land rollers. These rollers, uniform in size, were about six inches in diameter, and made of hard wood. They were used for moving buildings and heavy objects. The drawing power was furnished with a capstan, which was revolved by oxen or horse power. Mr. Munger sold the building later to Frank Dreher, and it was moved closer into the village and is now owned by Shirley Whysong, where he maintains his residence.

The pupils from the Hollister and Salem School, left their one room frame buildings in 1890 to attend the new brick Salem School, built about one-fourth of a mile east of the village. This school had one large room and two cloakrooms. Later, this school was partitioned into two rooms. The board of education now hired two teachers, one for the first four grades, and one for the advanced grades. Three years of high school were offered, but if one wished to take a fourth year, he had to attend elsewhere. Vern Denison and I. D. Ritter were the first graduates of a three year high school in 1912. Azell Walker was the principal, and only teacher in the high school. He taught all subjects. From 1909-1911, Vern Knepper was the principal. It was not until 1917 that a four year course was offered at Salem School.

In 1912 this school was torn down, and a new two and a half story brick building was erected, using the same bricks in the inner walls. The basement had a manual training room, domestic science room, and a library. The first floor had three class rooms and hall. The second floor was an auditorium. The pupils from the Wood, Hickory Grove, and Center School attended this new school. On November 6, 1925 this building burned, and the students were compelled to finish their school term in several different



buildings in Salem, which were loaned for the pupils use. There was some controversy over the location of a new school, but a new one was built one mile south of Salem which is the center of the township. Oakley Amerman was the trustee when the new building was erected, and although the records state that the building was erected in 1926, it was 1928 before classes were started there.

In 1848, a star mail route was established between Auburn and Orland. Salem Center became a post office on this route. David Wisel, the first postmaster, served till 1853, and the office passed to Walter Braden, who was succeeded three years later by Orson Woodford. The post office was in the Woodford home, which is now occupied by a great-grandaughter, Josephine Parsell. In 1856, Silas Conger was appointed, and after Buchanan's administration, Orson Woodford came in again, assisted by W. E. Kimsey. Silas Conger lived where Vern Weicht now lives and maintained the post office in his home. Later a star route from Sedan to Flint brought the mail. Then a star route from Helmer to Angola supplied the mail. Mail was brought by horse and carriage one day, and then would return the following day. Two trips were made weekly. Other postmasters were John Carey, Lewis Dole, John DeWitt, and Marvin Butler.

The rural route was established in 1904. Warren Sprankle (1873-1938) made daily trips to Salem bringing mail from Helmer. Warren Sprankle carried mail for thirty years, beginning in 1904. His wife, Ruth Sprankle, often assisted in carrying the mail. Their daughter Ellen, who married Wayne Hughes lives north of Salem. Theodore Vaughn made daily trips from Pleasant Lake. After Vaughn's retirement, George Reinoehl carried mail for a few years, followed by Ward Parsell in 1931. James Ferris then was the carrier until

1949 when the Pleasant Lake route was discontinued through Salem. At the present time Salem Township receives mail through six post offices. The northwest corner is on the LaGrange rural route, the northeast corner is on the Angola rural route, the southwest is on the Wolcottville rural route, the remainder of the township receives mail through Pleasant Lake, Hudson, and Helmer rural routes.

On the Fourth of July, a great celebration took place in the Village of Salem. People came from far and near to take part in the festivities of the day. One of the earliest celebrations was in 1843 when the families of the vicinity met together and had a big free dinner, serving as a delicacy, a roast pig prepared by Aunt Amy Diffenbaugh. By the way of entertainment, a Mr. White sent up a balloon made of newspapers. The cleared space around the village being small, the balloon caught in the top of a nearby tree, bringing disaster to the ascension and causing some, who had given ten cents to help pay the expense of the balloon, to feel somewhat swindled.

In 1874, there was organized a Cornet Band in Salem, which attained great proficiency. They won first prize at a tournament of Steuben County Bands at Angola, July 4, 1863. Their instructors were McCabe, Smith, and Bodley. Some of the first band members were Ira Woodford, William Kimsey, Frank DeWitt, Fred Sanxter, S. W. McHenry, E. C. Herrick, A. K. Hammond, George McHenry, and Irvin Loughry. In 1885, the members of the band were as follows: Prof. Gup Bodley, Frank R. Tubbs, A. D. Stephenson, A. K. Hammond, Charles Brown, George Parker, Guy Conklin, William Gillespie, F. Dole, G. Elliot, W. E. Kimsey, G. F. Amerman, Frank Woodford, and P. H. Gunsaulus.



Flem Bodley tells the following incident about his brother, Guy, and his first cornet. When Guy was fourteen years old, his parents took him to Angola to buy a cornet. They drove their two-seated buggy, and for the homeward journey, Guy and his new cornet occupied the back seat. When the family turned in at the Bodley house, Guy was playing "Home, Sweet Home".

McLane Post, No. 342 G. A. R. was mustered May 3, 1884, with the following sixteen charter members: Samuel Parker, D. R. Wisel, Peter Ritter, John Dewitt, Samuel VanPelt, J. C. Kimsey, Thomas Hovens, M. B. Butler, Andrew Wolf, Hugh Menaugh, L. N. McLain, G. W. Strauser, William Dewitt, John Haines, D. S. Gillespie, and A. Sams.

At an early date, J. C. Kimsey and Orson Woodford placed a town pump in the center of the village where travelers, as well as citizens of the village could get a refreshing drink. Above the town pump was built a band stand where the band could practice and give concerts. The town pump always seemed an essential part of the village, for nearly every family depended on this pump for their drinking water. As traffic increased through the village, it seemed advisable to move the pump from the center to a safer place, so in the early 1930's it was removed to the northeast corner, where it still provides water for those who need it.

We are proud to say that Salem has never contained a saloon or tavern, and may the future generations help keep the standards set before us by our forefathers.

Salem has one church located in the north part of the village. This church was erected in 1868 at a cost of \$3,000 by the Methodists, on a lot donated by Dr. J. C. Kimsey. The Methodist Church withdrew in the late 1920's and the Presbyterians purchased

the building and after redecorating it, have held services there. A few years later they purchased the north half of the brick store building from the Angola I.O.O. F. and have used the second story for Sunday School rooms, and the first floor contains a kitchen, dining room, and recreation hall. This hall was dedicated in 1941, and is called Westminster House.

Rev. J. E. Jones is the present pastor of the Presbyterian Church. He began his service in the Salem community in 1917, and except for a few years, has been the regular pastor. In 1918, during World War I, Mr. Jones served with the Y.M.C.A. in France. From 1925 to 1928, he was the pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Farmersburg, Indiana. Since 1928 Rev. and Mrs. Jones have lived in the manse that was purchased by the church from Jeanette and Sarah Caris. Both Mr. and Mrs. Jones, who are from Wisconsin, have ministered to the spiritual needs of the community. Their influence has permeated into the lives of many, and the fruits of their labor are manifest in the homes, of which they are a part. During his service in Salem Community, Rev. Jones has officiated at 225 funerals and 86 weddings. All but six of the active members on the present roll were received into the church by Rev. Jones. Rev. and Mrs. Jones have one daughter, Betty, who is a teacher in the school city of Logansport, Indiana.

In 1902 a telephone exchange office was placed in the home of Ida Woodford, and assisted by her daughter, Ulah, she operated the switchboard for many years, serving the community faithfully and well. Sarah and Jeanette Caris were the next operators and continued until the office was closed in 1918. In 1898 there were only 65 telephones in the county, and they were in Angola. The first telephone company in Salem Township was the Farmer's Mutual and the



poles and lines were put up by the farmers. A. E. Emerson had the first telephone in the township. In 1906 the Steuben County Telephone Company took over the operation of the telephone system. Fred Walsh was a lineman at an early date, as was Homer La Dow.

Mary Denny Boots, the wife of Clyde Boots, was the first telephone operator in Steuben County and held that position for seven years. Clyde Boots came to Salem Township in 1898 and lived on the farm now owned by May Hall. In 1913 he married Mary Denny, and their two sons are Robert and Kenyon. Robert married Byrdena Alleshouse and they have four sons: Alan, Vance, Russell, and Eric. Kenyon Boots married Wava Alleshouse and had two sons, Roger and Chester. After Wava's death, Kenyon married Virginia Norton, and they have two children, Marcia and Gail.

One of the oldest families that lived in Salem was the Woodford family. Orson Woodford (1805-1882) came to Salem Township in 1853. He purchased 80 acres on the southeast corner of the village. Orson Woodford's first wife was Jane North (1811-1849). They had six children: Elbert North, George Webster, John Calvin, Byram, James Hance, and an infant son. His second wife was Martha Bodley (1821-1901). They had five children: Ira, Cerintha, Emma, Frank, and Elmer. Of these eleven children, four remained in Salem Township, the others establishing homes elsewhere. George Woodford had the honor of being the first Salem boy to enlist in the Civil War.

John Calvin Woodford (1841-1918) married Josephine Davis (1857-1941). They had four children: Unah (1874-1941), Belle (1876-1948), Jessie (1879-1884), and North (1890-1906).

Unah Woodford married Benjamin Butler, and they had four children. They lived in Salem where Benjamin was associated with

his father in the hardware business. He also framed pictures and made novelties, which he sold throughout the county. Belle Woodford married Enos B. Parsell and had one daughter, Josephine, who resides on the farm that has been in the family for a hundred years. John Calvin Woodford was a Civil War Veteran and spent many hours with his comrades recalling war experiences. Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Woodford kept a hotel in their home for many years. Traveling salesmen or drummers, as they were then called, traveled with horse and buggy and could not go far in a day. As there was no place for them to "put up", the Woodfords opened their home to them for many years. Enos B. Parsell taught for several years in the township and Belle Woodford was one of his pupils.

James Hance Woodford (1847-1897) married Sarah A. Dole (1854-1891). They had four children: Bernice, Clair, Bessie, and Blanche. Bernice Woodford (1874-1937) married Guy Zimmerman and had three children, Audrey, Fred, and Fern. None of them live in Salem Township. Clair Woodford (1876-1929) married Lillian Mae Evan of London, England and lived in Korea. They had two daughters. Bessie Woodford (1880- ) married Thomas Hedglin, and their children were Mable (deceased), Mildred, and Clair (deceased). Her second marriage was to William Hedglin, and the children were Imogene, Wilma, Kenneth, and Harold. Mildred Hedglin married Walter Beckbarger. Their only daughter, Lavera, married Dawson Noll and has a son, Michael. They live in Hudson. Bessie Woodford is now Mrs. Al Lower and lives in Helmer. Blanche Woodford (1878-1907) married Fred Butler (1873-1947) and their children were Mildred and Don. Mildred Butler married Wilmot Hawes, and had three daughters. They live near Hudson. Don Butler married Geraldine Wimer and has two sons, and they live in Auburn.



Ira Woodford (1851-1884) married Estella Brown and had one daughter, Ruth. Ruth's first marriage was to Wallace Kimsey (1877-1932), and her second marriage was to Emmett Croxton (1862-1938). Mr. Croxton resides in Garrett.

Frank Woodford (1856-1902) married Ida Amerman (1857-1934). They had four children, namely: Alma, Ethel, Ulah, and Dawson. Alma Woodford (1881-1942) married Edward Henney and had four children: Donald, Paul, Dayton, and Robert (deceased). Ethel Woodford (1884- ) married Theodore Clinesmith and had four children: Lucile, Wilma, Wanita, and Dorena. They reside in Michigan. Ulah Woodford (1886- ) married Ottomer Alleshouse and had eight children: Russell, Gladys, Dorothy, Gerald, Woodford, Helen, Theda, and Greva. Mr. and Mrs. Alleshouse live in Salem Township in section 13. Dawson Woodford (1894- ) married Iva Sponsler and had four children: Thelma, Howard, Dale, and Janet. Howard Woodford was killed in 1945 in Northern Luzon after he led a green guerilla troop against the Japs, singlehandedly wiped out a machine gun nest and killed thirty-seven Japs in a Banzai attack. He was found dead at daybreak with the thirty-seven dead Japanese around him. This family lives at Barberton, Ohio.

Automobiles, radio, television, and the modern way of life has taken from the small village, the gay and simple life that it once knew. As the larger cities and towns envelop themselves around the rural peoples, giving them the amusements they desire, the wee little village remains a symbol of the peace and simplicity our forefathers gave us.

Today Salem has on store and a garage owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Russell Jackson, who came from Ft. Wayne in 1944 with their two children, Billie, and Donna Lou. Billie Jackson

married Charlotte Rowe, and they have two little girls, Bonnie Jo and Connie Lou. Donna Lou Jackson married Neal Hughes and lives in the F. D. Hughes house west of Salem. Mr. and Mrs. Russell Jackson are active in community affairs and are a great help to the community.

One half mile south of Salem is the very pleasant farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Vern Weicht. This farm belonged to Vern's maternal grandfather, Benjamin Silvey. Benjamin Silvey (1834-1914) was born in LaGrange County, but at the age of 7 he came to the Eli Teals and made his home. He married Magdalena Switterlin, and their children were Francis, Frederick O., and Effie M. Effie M. Silvey (1865-1943) married Eugene F. Weicht (1857-1932), and their children are Vern and Carmah. Vern Weicht married Mildred Leas, and they have one daughter, June. June Weicht married Billy Sunday, and their children are Larry and Linda.

Vern Weicht has modernized and improved the homestead until it is one of the nicest country homes in the township. Mr. and Mrs. Weicht are members of the Presbyterian Church and take an active part in the political, religious, and social life of the township. Mr. and Mrs. Billy Sunday reside in Angola where Mr. Sunday is associated with Tri State College.

Carmah Weicht married Asa Glasgow (deceased), and their children are Madelyn, Carroll, and Eugene. This family account is with the Glasgow family.

The Weicht family was a pioneer family in Salem Township. Vern Weicht's grandfather, Fred Weicht (1818-1865), was born in Germany and came to Steuben County with his parents when he was twelve years old. He was a physician by profession and was the first homeopathic doctor in Steuben County. Fred Weicht



married Susan McEntarfer (1839-1910) from Pennsylvania. Their children were Julius, Elizabeth, Adaline, Eugene, and Ida.

Five generations of Weichts have associated themselves with Salem Township.

Fred Weicht (1818-1865)  
 Eugene Weicht (1857-1932)  
 Vern Weicht (1889- )  
 June Weicht Sunday (1919- )  
 Larry Sunday (1943- )

Just south of Salem Village, on the farm now owned by Frank Hughes, lived the VanPelt family. Samuel VanPelt I and his wife, Hannah McMarlin VanPelt, never came to Indiana, but remained in Montgomery County, New York. When Samuel VanPelt II (1798-1873) and his wife, Mary Morrow VanPelt (1804-1888) came from Cattaraugus County, New York in 1844, they settled on the north-east corner of section 16 which is in Salem Village. It was Mary VanPelt who described their settlement in this way, "We went and went and went and stopped at the worst place we could find, and started our home." Samuel and Mary Morrow VanPelt were the parents of nine children: David, William, Samuel III, Bartholomew, Otis, Hugh Dea, Betty Jane, Mary Ann, and Kate.

David VanPelt married Evalyn Jackson, and they lived on section 9. Their children were Thad and Flora. Flora married John Greeno.

William VanPelt married Mercy McLain (1829-1901), and they lived on section 8. Their children were Elizabeth, Laura, Samuel IV, Mary and Ella. Elizabeth VanPelt married Daniel Nelson, and their children were Harriet, Helen, Roy, and Frank. Harriet Nelson married Joseph Main, and their children are Ethel and Durlin. Ethel Main married Eshu Tritch, and their family is recorded with the Tritch account. Burlin Main married Leona

McNeal, daughter of a Congregational minister, and their children are Merrill Gene and James Edward. Burlin Main is the Pastor of the First Methodist Church in Amsterdam, New York.

Seven generations are represented in this family, all having lived in Salem Township.

Samuel VanPelt II (1798-1873)  
 William VanPelt (1829-1881)  
 Elizabeth VanPelt Nelson (1854-1936)  
 Harriet Nelson Main (1874- )  
 Ethel Main Tritch (1895- )  
 Eva Tritch Shaffer (1919- )  
 Roberta Shaffer (1940- )

Laura VanPelt married James Bovee who died at an early age leaving her with one son, Byron (deceased). Her second marriage was to Alfred Denison.

Samuel IV married Elizabeth Slick, and the children were Crate, Harley, Harvey, Albert, and Hattie. Harvey VanPelt married Ina DeLong and they live on the old VanPelt farm in Salem Township. They have two daughters, Geraldine and Joyce. Geraldine VanPelt married Donald Brown. Joyce VanPelt married Lawrence Harold, and her two daughters are Connie and Lila Lee.

Six generations of this family have lived in Salem Township.

Samuel VanPelt II (1798-1873)  
 William VanPelt (1829-1881)  
 Samuel Alva VanPelt (1860- 1938)  
 Harvey VanPelt (1897- )  
 Joyce VanPelt Lawrence (1928- )  
 Connie Lawrence (1947- )

Mary VanPelt married Minor VanPelt, and their children were William, Naomi, Ella, Ima, and Daisy. William VanPelt married Bessie Ensley, and their children are Donovan, Ursel (deceased), and Willodean. Naomi VanPelt married Dee Ferris. Ella VanPelt married Gus Parr, and their children are Fern, Floy, Elwood, and Polly. Elwood Parr lives in the township. He married Louise



DeGraw. Their four sons are Gaylord, Richard, Gordon, and Rodney. Polly Parr married Willard Parker. Their two sons are Terry and Kent. They also live in Salem Township.

Six generations of this family have lived in the township.

Samuel VanPelt II (1798-1873)  
 William VanPelt (1829-1881)  
 Mary VanPelt (1863-1943)  
 Ella VanPelt Parr (1891- )  
 Elwood Parr (1915- )  
 Gaylord Parr (1941- )

Daisy VanPelt married Lawrence Deetz and their children are Keith, Annabelle, and DuWan. Keith Deetz married Dorothy Moore, and their four children are Ronnie, Linda, Laura, and Ricky Lawrence. Annabelle Deetz married Leonard Smith. They have three children and live near Waterloo, Indiana. DuWan Deetz is married and has one son, Steven.

Ella VanPelt married George Kunce.

Samuel VanPelt III married Lucy Chenowith, and their children were Nora, Lois, Edna, and McKinley.

Bartholomew VanPelt (1831-1911) never married, but made a home for his widowed sister, Mary Ann Chaffee.

Otis VanPelt (1830-1920) married Naomaa Chaffee, and they had one son, Minor.

Hugh Dea VanPelt married Emeline West. Their children were Clyde, Emma, Lottie, and Blanche.

Betty Jane VanPelt married a Mr. Hogan. Their children were Stephen and Mattie, all deceased.

Mary Ann VanPelt (1838-1894) married a Mr. Chaffee.

Katy VanPelt (1845-1926) married Gabriel Butts (1839-1908) and their daughters were Dellie Kitteridge and Ive Moore.

Ora Shumaker married Frances Luce, and they have two children, Larry and Mary. They have lived in Salem Village for several years. Ora's parents were George and Rosa (Parker) Shumaker (both deceased).

An amusing experience has been related by the passing generation, and it still brings a chuckle to present day listeners. "When the first settlers came to Salem Township, they were intrigued by the amount of money that their Jackson Township neighbors and friends possessed. They finally discovered that counterfeit money was being turned out in Jackson Township. So, some Salem men deciding, not to be out-done by Jackson Township, went over there in the night and brought the machine to Salem. It wasn't long until money flowed freely in Salem too, but it was of short duration as the operators of the counterfeit ring became frightened. They took the machine to a field south of Salem, stepped off a distance from a big tree, and buried it deep in the ground. As far as we know, it has never been found."

Sharing the memories of sorrow, happiness, and amusement binds us closer to the experiences of our forefathers, and they serve as a tribute to the little village of Salem.

Little town of Salem  
You've been a busy place.  
Time has changed your history,  
But your memories will ne'er erase.  
For you stand as a guardian angel  
O'er the ideals of our people, so dear.  
And within our hearts we cherish  
The thoughts you've planted here.



## BLOCK CHURCH CORNER

The earliest religious and social life of Salem Township seems to have centered around the Block Church, for it was near this corner where the John Wilson, Robert Bell, Avery Emerson, and several other pioneer families had settled.

John Wilson (1800-1880) who married Dinah Bodley, came to Salem Township to section 3 in 1836. He settled near the Block Church, and remained in the township until his death. There are no descendants living in the township, but Mrs. Opal Gillespie VanPelt who lives in Jackson Township is a great granddaughter.

In the spring of 1838, Presbyterian services were held at the house of John Wilson in section 3. A minister by the name of Parmelie conducted the services. The Society was organized at the log cabin of Mr. Wilson in the fall of 1838. The Reverend Royal Littlefield conducted the services on this occasion. The members who composed the first Presbyterian Society were John Wilson and wife, George Brown and wife and son, George Brown Jr., Mrs. Fanny Butler, Mrs. Meleta Butler, Sarah and Catharine McKinley, and Moses S. Parsell and wife. There were possibly a few other names that have not been obtainable. John Wilson was the only ruling member elected at the time and served several years. Services were held in the John Wilson home until the fall of 1839. Mr. Wilson who was a zealous worker in the Presbyterian Church, organized a Sunday School in his home. This was the first Sunday School in the township, and Mr. Wilson was the first Sabbath School Superintendent.

In the fall of 1839, a log school was erected on the northwest corner. It was of a very primitive design. Laura Dryer was the first teacher.

In 1841 a church was built on the site of the Block Cemetery. The church was given the name of "Block" because of the way the logs were hewn in block shape. This was undoubtedly the first structure built in Steuben County devoted solely to church services. It was a good-sized substantial structure, thirty by thirty-six feet in size, and in 1860 it was moved to the farm of John Newton Ousterhout, where it served for the home of the Ousterhout family. In 1926, the old building was razed and some of the walnut and white wood blocks were made up into lamps for descendants of the Ousterhout family.

John Newton Ousterhout (1825-1901), with his elder brother, James C., came to Salem Township in 1843 with ox teams. He bought 160 acres in section 9, owned by John Beigh and David Haskins, and 120 acres in sections 4 and 6. In 1853 he sold his land and ran a saw mill in section 14. In 1859 he bought the farm in Jackson Township where his grandson Russell Wood lives at the present time. It was here that John N. Ousterhout died. His older brother, James C., was the father of George Ousterhout who lived for many years just north of Salem with his wife, Alice Maybee Ousterhout and daughter, Lou. This family is all deceased.

John Newton Ousterhout was first married to Nancy Hammond and their children were Sarah and Samuel. His second marriage was to Sarah Haines (1829-1902). They had six children, Viola, Ralph, Cora, Sarah, Lillie, and Alta. All of this family have lived in the township and have contributed their talents, not only to the township, but to the entire county.

Viola (1855-1927) married Adelbert Wood (1854-1921) and had four children: Lena, Russell, Iva, and Hugh. The Wood family lived for many years just east of the Block Cemetery. They were active



in the religious and social life of the community and have held a definite place in the historical background of the township.

Lena Wood (1883) married Frank Spurgeon (1885). Their four children are: Albert R. (1911), married Harriet Weihmiller, one child, Mindy Darlene; Dell Russell (1913), married Marjorie Forbes, no children; Eva Irene (1914), married Elton Larch, one child, Virginia Rose; Rose Elizabeth (1918), married Gordon Smith, one child, Stanley Gordon.

Russell Wood married Margaret Kelly. Their children are Eleanor Viola and Hugh Adelbert.

Eleanor married Otis Lash and their children are Leroy Russell, Richard Allen, and Adelle Margaret. They live in Salem Township.

Hugh married Mary Church and their children are Michael Thomas, Beverly Clare, John Robert, and David Patrick. Russell Wood was a blacksmith for several years and had a shop at Salem and later in Mongo. He now is farming in Jackson Township on the Ousterhout homestead.

Iva Wood makes her home in Pennsylvania. Hugh Wood is married and has one daughter, Susan, and lives in Saginaw, Michigan.

Russell Wood's family is a five generation family from both paternal and maternal lineage.

John N. Ousterhout (1825-1901)  
Viola Ousterhout Wood (1855-1927)  
Russell Wood (1889- )  
Eleanor Wood Lash (1922- )  
Leroy Lash (1946- )

John Russell Wood ( -1873)  
Adelbert Wood (1854-1921)  
Russell Wood (1889- )  
Hugh Wood (1928- )  
Michael Wood (1946- )

Ralph Ousterhout never married, was a farmer and elected county clerk in 1916. Cora Ousterhout married Loren Clay, Sarah married W. Scott. Alta married Charles Green. These members of the Ousterhout family are all deceased. Lillie Ousterhout, (deceased),

married William Morrison and they had three daughters, Zema, Zella, and Faye. Zema married Lonnie Miller. Zella married Almon Greenman. Their children are Elaine, Arla, Max, and Lyn. Elaine married Herman Lebsiger and their children are Brenda, Dawn, and Darien. Arla married Augustus Johnson and has one child, Melody. Max married Isabelle Clark and has one child, Linda. Lyn is unmarried and lives at Dearborn, Michigan. Faye married Wayne Leystram and lives in Youngstown, Ohio.

In 1856 a "Singing House", or community house, was built across the road to the south of the Block Cemetery, and just west of where Ned Emerson lives at the present time. This was the scene of many a singing school and pioneer concert and amusement center. The Methodists and Presbyterians also held services there for a time. John Wilson taught singing school and John Spero came from Brushy Prairie to teach.

The Methodists built their own church in Salem Center in 1868. At the same time, the Presbyterians joined with the United Brethren in building the present structure on the northwest corner of Block Church Corners.

Mr. and Mrs. Avery Emerson Jr. deeded the plot of ground for the church. The Presbyterians and United Brethren used the same building which was still called the Block Church. In 1898, the United Brethren erected their own building one and one half miles north of Block Church Corner, and it was called Hopewell.

The Presbyterians continued the use of the Block Church until 1928, when they purchased the Methodist Church in Salem, as the Methodists had discontinued its use. On May 16, 1929, the Block Church was sold to Paul Weicht. He salvaged the useful material and the shell of the building still stands.



Living near the Block Church Corner are several descendants of the Avery Emerson family.

Avery Emerson Sr. (1788-1864) married Sophronia Allen (1791-1877) and in 1836 they came to Salem Township and settled in section 2 on the land now owned by a great grandson, James Emerson. In pioneer times this section was known as "Indian Fields". It is said that the marks of corn hills could be plainly seen, indicating that the ground had been cultivated by the Indians. Avery Emerson Sr. was the first justice of the peace of Salem Township and walked six miles to the home of Mr. Wright to perform the marriage ceremony of one of his daughters. From 1841 to 1849, he held the office of probate judge. In 1858 he sold his farm to his son, Luke Allen and moved to Angola, and later to Kendallville, where he died. Mr. and Mrs. Avery Emerson Sr. had ten children: George, John, David, Luke Allen, Avery Jr., Emily, Mary, Almira, Sophronia, and Albert. Of these ten children we are concerned with the three that made Salem Township their home.

Luke Allen Emerson (1824-1864) married Hettie Jacobus (1835-1914) and their children were Georgiana (1857-1938), Allen Emmons (1859-1942), Rose Eugenia, and Luke Allen II (1864-1924).

Georgiana Emerson married Henry Herbert (1852-1926) and their children were Florence and Ralph. Florence married Don Heffley and made her home for many years in Fort Wayne, but returned to Salem Township in 1941 and purchased the house just east of the Block Cemetery, remodeled it, and gave it the name of "Heffley's Hills of Home". Mr. Heffley passed away in 1951, and Mrs. Heffley still maintains the home. Ralph Herbert married Mildred Duff and they live in LaGrange where he is the proprietor of a men's clothing store.

Allen Emmons Emerson (1859-1942) married Jessie Mansfield

(1865-1947) and their children were Margaret, Louise, Allen, John, and James. Margaret Emerson married George Butler, and their family is mentioned in the Butler account. Margaret was the only volunteer nurse from Salem Township, and possibly from Steuben County, during World War I. She was stationed at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. She also taught in the township schools. Louise Emerson married Nelson Imus and they live in Bemidji, Minnesota. Their children are Margaret Ellen, Emerson, and Mary Louise. None of them live in Salem Township.

Allen Emerson married Velma Myers and their children are Jean Ann, Lawrence Emmons, and Joyce Loraine. They live in Rome City.

John Emerson married Irene Price. Their children are Alice, Martha, and Katherine. They reside in Lansing, Michigan where John conducts a landscaping enterprise.

James married Eva Holden and their children are Barbara, Lois, Emilyn, Jessie, Beth, and John. Barbara married Warren Hatch and lives in New Hampshire. Lois teaches in the Elkhart City Schools. Emilyn married Dale Hughes Jr. and has two children. Jessie is a student at Ball State Teachers College, and Beth and John are at home. This family lives on the Emerson homestead in Salem Township.

The A. E. Emerson family has long been a prominent family in Salem Township. They have all been active in the Presbyterian Church as well as in other community and county affairs. A. E. Emerson was an elder in the church for over fifty years. He died in the house where he was born. Probably no other family can equal the teaching record of the A. E. Emerson family, for thirteen of them chose the teaching profession as their contribution to the service of mankind.



The A. E. Emerson family is a six generation family in the township:

Avery Emerson Sr. (1788-1864)  
 Luke Allen Emerson (1824-1864)  
 Allen Emmons Emerson (1859-1942)  
 James Emerson (1903- )  
 Emilyn Emerson Hughes (1933- )  
 Susan Hughes (1950- )

Rose Eugenia Emerson married Charles Armstrong and their children were Emerson, Eugenia, and Charles Jr. This family has always lived in Michigan.

Luke Allen II (1864-1924) married Martha Kelso and had five sons. Emmons K. taught for a few years in Salem Township and now lives in Wooster, Ohio where he is a commercial advertiser. Donald married Hannah Lincoln and lives in Sturgis, Michigan, as do Ralph and Lawrence. Luke III died a few years ago.

Avery Emerson Jr. (1827-1894) married Elizabeth Parsell (1833-1915) and they had nine children: Oscar, Homer, Frederick, John, George, Elizabeth, Sophronia, Abijah, and Robert. Of these nine children, George, Elizabeth, and Abijah made Salem Township their home for many years.

From the memoirs of John Parsell we share this incident:

"No shoes were worn by the children from early spring until late fall. When the barefoot children would go over the frosty ground to get the cows, they would make the cows get up, so they could warm their feet on the warm spot. One cold day in the autumn, Homer Emerson had to wear his Aunt Sarah's shoes to go nutting, so his father, Avery Emerson Jr. went to the Burg and bought so many pairs of shoes that the storekeeper gave him a new bushel basket in which to carry them home. The boys then used the basket for nuts".

Abijah and George Emerson were prosperous farmers and stock raisers for many years, and were owners of the Avery Emerson Jr. homestead. On this farm, just north of the Block Church, grows a species of high-land blue joint grass that grows as high as a man's head and is not found in any other section of the township.

George (deceased) married Ona Cleveland (deceased) and their children were Cory, Elizabeth, and Mildred. They are all married and live out of the township.

Elizabeth Emerson (1868-1941) married Elbridge Butler (1865-1950) and their family account is with the Butler family.

Abijah (1873-1941) married Clara Spears (1875-1912) and their children were Mabel, Ned, Emily, Gladys, Anna Marjorie, and Abijah D. Jr. (Jack). Mabel married Sam Greeno and they have three children: Virginia, Max Emerson, and Jean Alice. Virginia married Willis Breese and has a son, John Philip. Max Emerson Greeno married Troas Shuwalter Clark, and their children are Judy Lee, Connie Jo, and Michael Eric. Jean Alice married Chester Ott and their children are Steven, Walter, and Linda Jean.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Greeno reside one half mile west of the Block Church Corner, but their children are all residents of Fort Wayne. Mr. Greeno is a successful farmer on the land where he has lived for many years. It was also the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Greeno, now deceased. Sam's grandparents were Samuel and Abigail Greeno. Mrs. Sam Greeno taught for several years in the township schools and has been very active in the many clubs throughout the township and county. Both Mr. and Mrs. Greeno have been influential leaders in the life of the community and are active members of the Presbyterian Church. Ned Emerson



married Valta Garver and their children were Lee (deceased) and Clara Marie. Clara married Don Davis of Albion and has two little girls, Joanna and Teresa. Mr. and Mrs. Ned Emerson live just east of the Block Church Corner. They are active participants in community, township, and county affairs. Mr. Emerson is a zealous worker in the promotion of good dairy cattle. They are both active members of the Presbyterian Church.

Emily Emerson married Wayne Sherrick and has one son, Ned. He married Analdine Pike and their sons are David Wayne and Stanley Edward. After Ned Sherrick's accidental death, Emily married Dean Aldrich and resides in Angola.

Gladys Emerson married Harry Franke and lives in Fort Wayne. Their children are Helen Emily and William Jack. Helen married Newell Cunningham and their children are Joy and Marge. William married Patricia Biddle and has one child, Wesley.

Anna Marjorie Emerson married Kenneth Gardner and they reside in Kendallville. They have two daughters, Sally and Carole. Sally married William Sobosley and has a son, Douglas. Carole is attending Steven's College.

Abijah Dunell (Jack) married Sue Hawkings, and they have a daughter, Karen.

This is another six generation group in the Emerson family:

Avery Emerson Sr. (1788-1864)  
 Avery Emerson Jr. (1827-1891)  
 Abijah Emerson (1873-1941)  
 Mabel Emerson Greeno (1897- )  
 Virginia Greeno Breese (1919- )  
 John Philip Breese (1944- )

A little west and across from Sam Greeno's farm, there was once an old frame school called the Butler school. It was here that the Butler, Bodley, Emerson, Elliot, Weaver, and Hammond

children attended school. After this school was discontinued, Thad VanPelt moved it across the road; it later burned.

Living south of Block Church Corner is the family of Oakley Amerman. They are residing on the farm where Robert Bell and Samuel Parker lived years before. Oakley represents the third generation of Amermans to live in Salem Township.

Peter (1825-1899) and Getta Margaret (Hall) (1827-1905) Amerman were the first generation to live in Salem Township. They had nine children. Garrett (1848-1908) married Cynthia Bryan, and they had no children. Salem was their home for many years. Harriet Sophia married Charlie Brown and had twin daughters, Belle and Dell. Mr. Brown had a drugstore in Salem. Ida married Frank Woodford and they were early residents of Salem. Addie married Edson Wilson and Henry married Eva Jackson. Three children died in infancy.

William Amerman (1855-1944) married Frances Silvey and, for two years ran a store in Salem. Their children were Mabel, Oakley, Ben (deceased), and James. Mabel married Isaac Bodley, and James married Naomi Boyer.

Oakley Amerman (1879- ) married Blanche Ewing and they have lived on their farm in section 4 since 1917. Their two daughters are Florence and Geneva. Florence married Maynard Holden and their home is just north of Block Church Corner. Their children are Keith, Carol, Richard, and Jean. Keith married Lila Schmidt and their children are Linda Lou and Jeffrey. Carol married Ruth Buss and their children are Barry, Gregory, and Bruce. Richard is serving in the Army and Jean married Robert Heller. Geneva Amerman married Donald Alleshouse and their children are Alice Joan, Marilyn Jane, Norma Lorene, Frances Alene,



and Larry. Alice Joan married Harry Sloat and lives in Waynedale. Marilyn Jane married Robert Rowe and has two children, Jerry and Debra Ann. The other three children are at home.

Six generations of the Amerman family have resided in the township:

Peter Amerman (1825-1899)  
 William Amerman (1855-1944)  
 Oakley Amerman (1879- )  
 Florence Amerman Holden (1906- )  
 Keith Holden (1926- )  
 Linda Lou Holden (1948- )

In about 1890 the Wood School was built just west of where Mrs. Pearl Wood resides, and east of the Block Cemetery. The land was donated by Mr. John Russell Wood Chenoweth, and the labor was done by the men in the community under the supervision of George Resler. Melva Warstler was the last teacher at Wood School. Other teachers associated with the school were Tellie Wisel and Ward Sparks.

In 1912 the Wood School was abandoned and the pupils were taken to the new brick building east of Salem. Gus Lang paid \$310 for the old schoolhouse and one acre of land. The building was torn down and the brick was taken to the county home near Angola to be used for building purposes. The acre of ground is now a part of the farm of Florence Heffley.

Another prominent family in the Block Church area was the Beigh family. In 1868 John Beigh (1822-1903) and his family moved from Jackson Township to Salem Township and made this his home until he was killed by a railroad train near Angola. His wife was Mary Gooding (1825-1886). They were the parents of nine children: Silas, Emily, Julia, Lucinda, Edwin, Willis, Amelia, Rosella, and Mary.

Silas (1846-1934) represents the second generation of Beighs. They are a six generation family.

John Beigh (1822-1903)  
 Silas Beigh (1846-1934)  
 Oran Beigh (1876- )  
 Beulah Beigh Miller (1907- )  
 Beverly Miller Pristas (1933- )  
 Nanette Pristas (1954- )

Emily Beigh died in infancy. Julia Beigh (1852-1922) married James Henry Rippey (1851-1935) and their children were Mrs. Alta Haas, Zella and Zoda. Zella married Fred Barto and their son is Wenzel Barto. He married Iva Bartlett and they have four daughters, Leah Faye, Mildred Ann, Sandra Jean, and Linda Carol. Zoda Rippey never married and resides with her widowed sister, Zella Barto, one half mile west of Salem.

Lucinda Beigh (1854-1885) married Frank Fifer. Edwin Beigh (1856-1926) married Hannah Beigh. Their children were Nora, William, Bessie, Esther, and Edwin Jr. Nora is the only surviving member of this family of children. William married Opal Delong and their son (by adoption) was James Beigh. He is married and is a teacher.

Willis Beigh (1859-1931) married Sarah Carey and there were no children. Amelia Beigh (1861-1930) married Dr. M. T. Clay and their children were Leo and Lura. Rosella Beigh (1863-1882) never married. Mary Beigh (1868- ) married John H. Clark. John Beigh was a cooper or barrel maker, besides being a farmer. A small cooper shop was located in section 9 across from where Wayne Hughes lives.

Over a hundred years ago the Block Church Corner was the center of religious and social development in Salem Township. It was here that the ideals and goals for a full and wholesome life were nurtured. Today only the Block Cemetery is there on the corner, to remind us of our pioneer parents and principles of life that they established.



## DUTCH MILL CORNERS

Two miles east of Salem is a four corner that has been known for many years as Dutch Mills. A group of houses there form the little rural community that is unique and fascinating in historical facts. Probably there is only one couple there now that has shared the experiences and happenings of the early days. This estimable couple is Mr. and Mrs. David Ritter who live on the southwest corner in a double house that was built by John Bowman and Jacob Wagoner. They bought the land in 1856 and built the double house to accomodate the two families. On December 8, 1853, they also purchased from William and Charlotte Meek the land that was spoken of as the mill field, on the southeast corner in section 13. This land was to be used as a mill site; Bowman and Wagoner to build on this land a steam saw mill, and run it. Mr. Wagoner, was of Dutch descent and having inherited the accent and mannerisms of his people it seemed natural to call the mill, Dutch Mill, and the corner still bears the name.

This mill field property was the subject of many transactions. The following names are recorded on the deeds: William Meek, Charlotte Meek, John Bowman, Jacob Wagoner, Michael Klink, John Krisher, Elizabeth Krisher, Selim Cogswell, John Norman, Rachel Norman, Margaret Cogswell, William Cain, Melissa Cain, Bertha Meek, Simon Beck, Caroline Beck, John Noll, Moreda Noll, Edward Noll, Chloë Noll, Charles Brown, Harriet Brown, Levi Free, Mary Free, Samuel Stover, Chester Klink, Elmer Nolan, and Emaline Stover.

In the early 1900's a tile mill was built in the mill field, and in 1907 Samuel Stover sold to Chester Klink the tile mill and saw mill. In 1917, Mr. Klink sold all the property to Edward Noll and Edward Meek except the tile kiln which he reserved, and moved

to Steubenville, Indiana where it was discontinued. Mr. Noll and Mr. Meeks finally sold the property to Emaline Stover with the right to operate the saw mill until July 15, 1917, at which time they were to remove the mill. The saw mill brought much activity to the corners. It was run by steam power and 4000 ft. of lumber sawed per day. This mill furnished the ties for the Wabash Railroad when it was built across the southern border of the township.

Mr. Bion Young now owns and operates the farm including the old mill field. The Young family consists of Mr. and Mrs. Young and their four children: Lloyd, Keith, Everett, and Lois. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Graves, Mr. and Mrs. Kenton Becker, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wilder with their families live at Dutch Mill Corners. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Christoffel and their two children, Lou Ann and Larry, live east of Dutch Mill Corners on the farm where Mrs. Christoffel was reared. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. Arlie Walters. Delores Walters Christoffel has taught for many years and is employed at the Hudson School at the present time. Her uncle, Barton Saul, lives nearby.

Although Mr. and Mrs. Hayes Hoyer are not natives of Salem Township they have made their home east of Dutch Mill in section 12 for many years. They erected the house that they live in, in 1911, and here they have reared a family of nine children. Mr. Hoyer's parents were Jacob and Sarah Hoyer, and Mrs. Hoyer, Emma, was the oldest of two daughters born to Hosea and Elizabeth Dayhoff.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Hayes Hoyer is quite unusual in that there are two sets of twins: Basil and Berneice, and Faye and Ray. The Hoyer family has contributed much to the progress of Salem Township. Their goodness, friendliness, and good will have



been exercised throughout the county. The Hoyer children are: Wayne, Wymond, Basil, Berneice, Doris, Ray, Faye, Zema, and Jay. Wayne Hoyer married Mildred Brown and have three children: Myron, Phyllis, and Betty. They live near Corunna. Wymond Hoyer married Pauline Shumaker. They have five children: Dorothy, Wymond Jr., Barbara, Patty, and Rex. They live in Salem Township. Basil Hoyer married Marcella Steffer. They have five children: Gene, Roger, Faye, Mary Beth, Connie Sue. They live in York Township. Berneice Hoyer (1908-1940) married William Stuyverson, and there were no children. Doris Hoyer married LaMar Grate. They have one son and live at Auburn. Ray Hoyer married Margaret Sherrick. They have three children: Beverly, Billy, and Kelly. They operate a grocery store in Helmer. Faye Hoyer married John Silver. They have one daughter, Mary Ann. They operate a grocery store at Stroh. Zema Hoyer married Robert Berlien. They have two boys, Jack and James. They live in Angola where Mr. Berlien is employed at the Angola State Bank. Jay Hoyer married Lois May Latson. Their children are James and Terrie Ann. They live in Salem Township.

Mr. and Mrs. Hayes Hoyer celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on December 24, 1952, with all of their children and grandchildren present.

Living north of Dutch Mill Corners are Mr. and Mrs. William Chrysler, Mr. and Mrs. Ivy Mendenhall, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Blech, Orin Beigh, Mr. and Mrs. Dewayne Shumaker, Mr. and Mrs. I. D. Ritter, and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ernsberger.

Dewayne Shumaker married Boneta Perkins and lives on the farm in section 11 that was purchased by his great-great-grandfather, Jacob Motsolf, in 1864. It was transformed from a wilderness and improved into the pleasant place that it is today. Jacob Motsolf

(1818-1887) married Catharine Noll (1826-1863), the daughter of George (1796-1862) and Nancy Hall Noll. The son, Charles Motsolf, continued improving the land after the death of Jacob Motsolf. Charles Motsolf (1862-1944) married Ida Zimmerman and had one daughter, Effie, who married David Ritter, the grandson of Henry Ritter. Mr. and Mrs. David Ritter have one daughter, Opal. She married Harry Shumaker, and they have two children, Dewayne and Norma. The Harry Shumaker family lives just west of Dutch Mill Corners. Five generations of one family have lived on the Motsolf farm where Dewayne resides.

Jacob Motsolf (1818-1887)  
 Charles Motsolf (1862-1944)  
 Effie Motsolf Ritter (1885-     )  
 Opal Ritter Shumaker (1907-     )  
 Dewayne Shumaker (1927-     )

The Noll family has exercised a great influence over the Salem community and have furnished valuable service as capable farmers, mechanics, and businessmen. The founder of the Noll family was George Noll (1796-1852). He came to Salem Township in 1839 and bought land in section 11, north of Dutch Mill Corners. His forest home was a log cabin. An Indian Trail ran near the house and the family saw Indians passing over the trail every day. They were very peaceful and would often stop at the Noll home. Mr. Noll recalled that salt retailed at \$9 a barrel, though wheat sold for only 40¢ a bushel. All grain was hauled to market at Coldwater, Michigan. Samuel Noll, the son of George Noll, was born in 1817 and was just a young man when his father came to Salem Township. He spent many hours chopping wood and clearing brush. Sam was a very skillful worker and had a great knowledge of the carpenter trade. His services were in constant demand for furniture



making and more particularly for fashioning coffins. Although he kept his home on the farm, he engaged in the undertaking business and was in that work for about forty years, until the time of his death in 1888. This undertaking establishment stood north of the Dutch Mill Corners in section 11. Isaac and William Kreischer, aged 90 and 80, reside in Ashley and in their younger years worked for Mr. Noll. They relate the following information: The coffins were made of solid walnut and varnished on the outside. Starting at the foot they were narrow and were widened for the shoulders. They were lined with snow white muslin and had fancy braids for handles. The coffins sold for \$10 and the cost of the funeral services including the coffin were \$40. Bodies were not embalmed, but relatives and friends would keep constant vigil over the corpse, applying a cloth, wrung from a solution which would keep the body from turning black. The bodies were never taken from the home until they went to the burial ground.

Mr. Sam Noll's wife was Christina Flectling of Alsace, Germany. Both Mr. and Mrs. Noll were active members of the Reformed Church and in 1882, they were instrumental in building the New Trinity Reformed Church, west of the Dutch Mill Corners in Salem Township. Chris, as she was called, had a stone oven outside where she baked bread and cooked. The log cabins were heated by fireplaces. Chris' sister, Salomey Flectling, lived in the Noll home and practiced witchcraft, often wrapping herself with many layers of clothing in order to keep the evil spirits away.

Edward Noll, represented the third generation of the Noll family and was born in the old home in Salem Township in 1849. He learned the carpenter trade and was a blacksmith for two years. His mechanical abilities found expression, not only in the varied work of the farm, but as the operator of a threshing outfit. For

forty years he was in this line of business, starting with the old horse power apparatus and handling the improved models as they were introduced into use. Edward married Chloe Arvilla Ransburg and having no children of their own they took into their home, Ida May Ferris, who married Clyde Allen. They had two children, Loyal Allen of Coldwater, Michigan, and Faye Allen Ice of Ft. Wayne.

William Noll, a brother of Edward Noll, married Rachael Ransburg, and they had three children: Samuel, Mattie, and William D. Of these children Samuel (1871-1953), spent nearly his entire life in the vicinity of the Dutch Mill Corners. He married Ida Allen (1880- ), and to them were born eight children. They are Dale, Cecil, Nihl, Don, Herschel, Vern, Bessie, and Dawson. Dale Noll married Bertha Perkins. They have two children, Carroll and Joan, and live near Stroh. Cecil Noll married Geraldine Coney. They have two children, Bill and Lynn. They live in Stroh. Nihl Noll married Dorothy McDonald and has two children, Ralph and Gary. Don Noll married Rosina Kneubuhler. They have two sons, Johnny and Larry, and live in Hudson. Herschel Noll married Isabelle Carmichael and has two children, Sammy D. and Sharon. They live in Hudson. Vern Noll married Virginia Coney, has one son, Gene, lives in Ashley where he is a minister. Bessie Noll married Donald Boyer and has five children: Donna, Diana, Lou Ann, Jerry, and Richard. They live on the Conklin farm, one half mile east of Salem. Dawson Noll married LaVera Beckbarger and has one son, Michael. They live in Hudson.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Noll moved to Ashley a few years before his death. Mr. Noll's deep devotion, love, and attachment for his native township was shown when he appeared at the Salem polls to vote in 1952, making the remark that if he couldn't vote in Salem



Township, he wouldn't vote. Six generations of this family have lived in Salem Township.

George Noll (1796-1852)  
 Samuel Noll (1817-1888)  
 William Noll (1842-1923)  
 Samuel M. Noll (1871-1953)  
 Herschel Noll (1914- )  
 Sammy D. Noll (1946- )

West of the Dutch Mill Corners is the Trinity Reformed Church which was built in 1882. Samuel Noll, born in 1817 in Stark County, Ohio and coming to Steuben County in 1839, donated the land, and was largely responsible for its construction. He made the church furniture, including the pulpit, which is made of Sumac wood.

Before the church was built, the organization held services in the Mt. Zion Church in Steuben Township. The church was dedicated on October 28, 1883, with Rev. Grosenbaugh preaching the dedicatory sermon. The pastor was Rev. F. F. Christine and he presented the church with a large pulpit Bible on that day.

The ordained ministers who have served the church are:

Rev. Christine	1882-1888	Rev. Schrorer	1919-1921
Rev. Clayton	1888-1891	Rev. Reideubaug	1923-1925
Rev. Albright	1892-1897	Rev. Albright	1929-1932
Rev. Seity	1897-1902	Rev. Michael	1935-1937
Rev. Lautysenhiser	1903-1907	Rev. Grimm	1937-1939
Rev. Werner	1909-1912	Rev. Heffley	1939-1942
Rev. Hart	1915-1919		

Other ministers have served as supply and field men and some Seminary students have preached at various times.

Some of the elders who have served the church are David Ritter 1885, Samuel Stover 1885, E. Noll 1889, John Hughes 1890, Fred Ransburg 1893, George Conklin 1894, Charles Motsolf, A. J. Sparks 1896, Samuel Allen 1898, Edward Noll 1903, Alphens Slater 1929, Samuel Noll 1930, and in more recent years, Owen Elson, Wayne Allen, Reuel Ransburg, and Virgil McClish.

The church was closed for regular services and Sunday School the last of December, 1948.

Sunday School superintendants during the last thirty years were: Alpheus Slater, Charles Motsolf, Samuel Allen, Chauncey Ringler, Edward Noll, William Noll, Claude McClish, Wayne Allen, Owen Elson, Virgil McClish, Vern Noll, Reuel Ransburg, and Mamie McLain. The communicant list of members from 1883 to 1893 were listed as:

Samuel Noll	Mary Zimmerman	Fred Ransburg
Christine Noll	Ida Greeno	William Davis
Henry Ritter	Emaline Hayward	Samuel Allen
Mary Ritter	George Conklin	Edith Allen
Malinda Ritter	Mary Conklin	Samuel Noll
Michael Klink	John Hughes	Mattie Noll
Margaret Klink	S. J. Sparks	Anna Dreher
John Noll	Martha Hughes	Anna Parker
Julia Munch	Susan Mills	Jennie Clink
Samuel Stover	Myrta Thompson	Carrie Clink
Emaline Stover	Dora Shorter	Stella White
Mary Slater	Flora Conklin	Mary Ransburg
Alphens Slater	Stella Davis	Iona Allen
Edward Noll	Emma Hughes	Edith Stover
Chloe Noll	Clara Cook	Allie Detrick
	Zora Anstett	

David Hughes, a pioneer settler from Ohio, came to Salem Township and settled in section 11. He was one of the earliest merchants in the township, operating a store at Dutch Mill Corners. This store was located on the north-west corner where Robert Wilder lives at the present time. David Hughes was Justice of the Peace from 1846-1855. He later moved to Jackson Township and was Justice of the Peace there. It was in this locality where he passed away.

John Hughes (1838-1893), the son of David, represents the second generation of Hughes' in Salem Township. He received his education in the public schools of Steuben County and was employed for several years in the saw mill at Dutch Mill Corners. He was a Republican in politics and a member of the Reformed Lutheran Church. His wife, Martha Meek Hughes (1846-1918), was the mother of fourteen children. They were Alonzo, William, Frank, Lester, Lewis, Emma,



Sumner, Josephine, Porter, Rachel, Earl, Burl, James who died at the age of 12, and one who died in infancy.

Of these fourteen children, six of them made Salem Township their home. Frank Hughes (1866- ) married Leona Parsell (1879- ) and they have one daughter, Adeline, who married Theodore Wood and had one daughter, Susan Jo. Adeline's second marriage was to Arthur Hettema. Frank Hughes followed the teaching profession for several years. He taught in Salem Township nine years. In 1897 he bought a farm in section 16, which he still maintains and manages. In 1911 he moved to Angola where he went to perform his duties as Clerk of the Circuit Court.

Lester Hughes (1868-1946) married Susan Haines in 1889. She died in 1903, the mother of one son, Dean. Dean Hughes (1895-1946) married Grace Ensley. They had one daughter, Phyllis, who married William Bodley and had one daughter, Connie. Mrs. Grace Hughes resides on her farm in section 14 in Salem Township. In 1908 Lester Hughes married Belle Wark, and their family consisted of two daughters, Rowena and Lois. Rowena Hughes married Earl Ringler, and their children are Stuart and Sylvia. Mrs. Ringler had been a successful teacher in the county schools and is teaching at Hudson at the present time. The Earl Ringler family reside on a farm in section 14 where Mr. Ringler is a prosperous farmer. Lois Hughes married Wade Dodge, and they live in Steuben Township with their children, Sally, Sharon, and Frederick.

Sumner Hughes (1878-1937) married Orpha Spearow (deceased), and their children were Flossie, Robert, and Howard. Flossie Hughes (deceased) married Harvey VanPelt and had one son, Burdette. Robert Hughes, a B & O employee, married Marjorie Raub, and their sons were Kenneth and Lee. They reside in Garrett. Howard Hughes

married Delores Sewell and has two children. They live in Jackson Township. Sumner Hughes and family lived for some years on the farm of Frank Hughes, just west of Salem.

Josephine Hughes married Eugene Shufelt and was the mother of three children, Herman, Evelyn, and Arlene. Herman Shufelt resides in Michigan. Evelyn Shufelt married Reuel Ransburg and they have two children, Van and Linda. Van Ransburg married Helen Stomm and is associated with his father in the hardware business in Hudson. Linda Ransburg is at home. Arlene Shufelt married Howard Dodge and has three children: Richard, Catherine, and Rex. Richard Dodge is in the Air Force in Washington, Catherine Dodge is a doctor's assistant in Elkhart, and Rex Dodge remains at home.

Porter Hughes (1880-1951) married Clara Haskins (1880-1949), and they had two sons, Dale, and Wayne. Dale Hughes married Wilma Cole, and their children are Betty Joyce, Wendell Dean, and Dale Jr. Betty Joyce Hughes married Lawrence Myers and has a little girl, Marcia Kay. They reside in Ft. Wayne where she is a nutrient consultant on the State Board of Health. Wendell Dean Hughes married Joan Yoder and has three children: Vickie Lynn, Wendlin Jo, and Daniel Porter. They reside in Indianapolis where Wendell is a Junior in Dental College. Dale Hughes Jr. married Emilyn Emerson and their children are Susan Dianne and Sandra Dawn. They live on a farm in Salem Township. Wayne Hughes, son of Porter, married Ellen Sprankle, and their children are Margaret Jean, John, Don (deceased), and Dan. Margaret Jean Hughes married Dr. Carl Stallman, and they have one son, Don. They reside in Kendallville. John is associated with his father in farming. Both he and Dan are at home.

Porter Hughes and his sons, Dale and Wayne, have been



prosperous and successful farmers in the Salem area. Wayne and Dale are active in community affairs and maintain well kept homes and surroundings. Following their high school days, both Dale and Wayne went to college and each received a Masters Degree in Education. Both served as principals in the schools where they taught. Their wives were both teachers.

Earl Hughes (1887-1944) married Vesta Hartman. They had three sons: Darrell, Maurice (1912-1925), and Neal. Darrell Hughes married Delores Hart, and their children are Judy, Barbara, and Jerry. Neal Hughes married Donna Lou Jackson. Darrell Hughes farms in section 27. His wife, Delores, teaches music, and the entire family takes part in township and county affairs. Neal Hughes farms for his mother in section 15.

Six generations of Hughes have resided in Salem Township.

David Hughes  
 John Hughes (1838-1893)  
 Porter Hughes (1880-1951)  
 Dale Hughes Sr. (1899- )  
 Dale Hughes Jr. (1931- )  
 Susan Dianne Hughes (1950- )

About one-half mile north of the Dutch Mill Corners on the farm of William Chrysler stands the one room brick school that was used for many years known as North Klink District No. 1. Mary Butler Janning was the last teacher there in 1920-1921. Mr. Chrysler's deed shows an acre of ground allotted to the township for school purposes in 1847, but it seems that the frame building which was the first school there, was across the road. Teachers recalled are Len K. Parr in 1895-1896, and the pupils that year were:

Chester Klink	Jennie Kreischner
Carrie Sunday	Rachel Hughes
Walter Stover	Lawrence Klink
John Ritter	Clovie Hills
Charlie Cook	Dessie Ransburg
Effie Motsolf	Vina Ritter
Neva Cook	Burl Hughes
Irl Hughes	Lena Conklin
Loina Kreischer	Mabel Tubbs
Frank Cook	Lucy Ritter
Carl Tubbs	Albert Cook
Oral Cook	Romeo Greeno
Lloyd Killinger	

Other teachers mentioned were Lillie Benedict, Ona Sherrow, Frank Hughes, Ollie Beigh, Grace Skelly, Hurma Brugh, Molly McKinley, Liddie Sherrow, and Elizabeth Dole. The following teachers taught in the Brick Klink No. 1 Building: Jesse McClugan, Luella Fulmer, Tellie Wisel, Elsie Wisel, Marie Parsell, Frank Hughes, and Celia Markley.

The old frame Klink school was torn down by John Kreisher, and he moved the lumber east of the Dutch Mill Corners and built a house, which later burned.

Mention is made of several asheries located throughout the township, and two of them were at Dutch Mill Corners. Forty rods east of Dutch Mill Corners on the south side of the road was one, and twenty rods north of the corner on the west side was another. Land was being cleared and ashes were plentiful. They were brought by wagon box loads from the ash heap in the woods to Dutch Mill Corners asheries. A wagon would hold about twenty-eight bushels, and they brought 1¢ a bushel, all profit. The ashes were packed tightly in a wooden container or box ten feet long, four feet wide, and eight feet high. The bottom was constructed so that they could leach water through the wood ashes, obtain lye or "potash juice". A trough was constructed at the bottom of the box where the potash juice would collect. It was then boiled down and shipped to a commercial manufacturer of saleraties, or



soda. The detail of these old asheries at Dutch Mill Corners was taken from the sketches of John Parsell.

Dutch Mill Corners seems to have been the Industrial Corner of the township, for it was here that the pioneer industries took root and bloomed until the progress of years caused them to wither and die. Some never to be replaced, and others to take root in a new clime.

## HOLLISTER CORNER

A mile east of Salem Village is a four corner that was the home of several pioneer families. Still living about this corner are the descendants of some of these settlers.

The Doles, Amermans, Drehers, Lepleys, and Berlins (east of Angola) all came from Huron County, Ohio, to Salem Township.

They were friends before they came and Doles and Amermans were the cause of the others' coming. There were also the Conklins and Klinks.

Mose Hollister settled on the northeast corner in section 11 and gave the ground for Hollister Cemetery. He then sold his farm to a Mr. Kirkwood, whose daughter Susannah married John Dole. The Doles came to Salem Township in 1861 and bought the land from Susannah's father. It was in the midst of the woods and the wild deer and turkey were plentiful.

John and Susannah Dole were the parents of Daniel, Lewis, Charles, Elizabeth, Sarah, and Frank. Elizabeth Dole, who married W. E. Kimsey, taught in the township schools before her marriage. Frank Dole was a merchant in Salem before moving to Angola. Daniel Dole (1845-1928) married Minerva Davis (1852-1925). They were the grandparents of Fermin Dole who lives in Salem Township. John Dole was a carpenter by trade and built many of the early buildings.

Mose Hollister, after selling the northeast corner, bought the land on the southeast corner and gave the plot for the Hollister schoolhouse. This frame school was built by the Doles between 1865-1870 and was closed in 1890. In 1944, Earl Ringler, who is the present owner of the southeast corner, tore down the old Hollister schoolhouse and used the lumber for



building purposes. Nellie Helmer Hovarter was the last teacher there.

Another pioneer family in this area was the Conklin family who came from Dutchess and Cayuga County, New York. Isaac Conklin represents the first generation of Conklins in Salem Township. He had seven children who grew to adulthood in Richland County, Ohio. His wife died there and he lived with his sons. In 1842, he came with his youngest son, James, to Salem Township and settled in section 10. Isaac then went on to Kansas and died there. Another son, David (1803-1881), came in 1844 and settled on the northeast quarter of section 15. David married Polly Van Vleet who died in Ohio. They had seven children: Ensign, Calvin, Nelson, William, Elizabeth, Cynthia, and Lime.

Ensign Conklin married Betsy Hollister and their children were Deborah, Guy, George, Flo, Dora, and Della.

Deborah Conklin (1861-1945) married William Lepley (1862-1949). Their family is recorded in Lepley accounts. Guy Conklin (1859-1944) was twice married. His first wife was Ella Mae Frederick Ensley and his second wife was Ella Mae Huffman. Guy had a music store in Angola and Fort Wayne for many years.

George Conklin (1855-1922) married Mary Harpster (1859-1938) and they had one daughter, Lena, who married Brown DeGraw. They live on the northeast corner of Hollister corner where Lena's parents lived when she was a child. The DeGraws are parents of five children, Louise, Frank, Dorothy, Mary Lou, and Anna Jeanette died in infancy. Louise DeGraw married Elwood Parr and their children are Gaylord, Richard, Gordon, and Rodney. They live in Salem Township. Frank DeGraw married Fern Wallace and their son is Glen Allen. Dorothy DeGraw married Frank Langley and their

children are James Leroy, Brenda Lorayn, and Rebecca Lynn. They live in Wayland, Michigan. Mary Lou DeGraw married Arthur M. Sundae. Their three children are Frank Martin, Barbara Constance, and Mark Rodney. Mr. Sundae is the assistant manager of a copper mine in Chile, South America.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Brown DeGraw attend the Presbyterian Church and are active in community enterprises. Mrs. DeGraw recalls the stories her grandfather told about taking grain to Flint to be ground. It would be an all day trip by oxen and wagon, and, when darkness came, the wolves would run along the wagon and howl. Mr. Conklin would cover his body and lie in the bottom of the wagon to muffle the loud lonely wails.

Frank DeGraw operates a farm but lives in Salem. The Conklins are one of the few seven generation families in the township.

Isaac Conklin (no dates)  
 David Conklin (1803-1881)  
 Ensign Conklin (1826-1904)  
 George Conklin (1855-1922)  
 Lena Conklin DeGraw (1888-1968)  
 Frank DeGraw (1918- )  
 Glen Allen DeGraw (1954- )

Flo Conklin married Mr. Parnell and has made her home in Fort Wayne where she followed the nursing profession. Dora Conklin (1856-1914) married George Shorter and had one son Luke who married June Wells. Their children are Richard, Virginia, Vonna, and Sheila. They live in Fort Wayne. Della Conklin married Ben Evans and their children are Kay and Zella.

Calvin Conklin (1832-1916) married Lydia Ann Boss and they had one son, Roscoe (1864-1950). Roscoe Conklin married Etta Weaver (1869-1948) and their daughter Ruth married Joseph McCoy and lives in Chicago. Cynthia Conklin married Michael Klink.

The Conklins were industrious and progressive. They acquired and cleared a large acreage of land and were also active in the



development and progress of the township.

About 1844 there was an old mill at Hollister Corner. This mill stood on the northeast corner and was run by a water wheel. The lumber for one of the Butler barns was sawed at this mill.

Just north of Hollister Corner in section 10 lives the family of Wayne Klink. The Klink family originated in the district of Wertenberg, Germany where the name was spelled Klinck. They sailed from Hamburg in 1815 and, after two months, arrived in Philadelphia. The family consisted of father, mother, and nine children: Christian, Caleb, John, George, Charles, Michael, and three daughters. All of the children were born in Germany except Michael, the youngest, who was born on shipboard on the Atlantic Ocean. As was the custom then, several of the children were bound out to Pennsylvanians for terms of service to provide funds to pay for the passage to America. The Klinks came to Seneca and Richland Counties in Ohio and became farmers.

Christian Klink (1795-1872), the oldest of the children, was born in Germany and completed a five year term in the German Army following the battle of Waterloo in 1815. When it seemed inevitable that he might be called for another five years, he came to America.

After coming to Ohio, Christian Klink married Mary Failor (1804-1891) of Pennsylvanian Dutch Mennonite origin, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and became a farmer near Republic, Ohio, where their nine children were born. The family came to Indiana in 1848 and bought a farm of Adolphus Gale in section 12, Salem Township. Christian Klink lived to see much of the land under cultivation and the log cabin replaced by a frame one. The nine children were Louisa, John, Caroline, Christina, Catherine, Eli, Mary, Elizabeth, and Michael. Of these nine children, several have descendants within Salem Township.

Elizabeth Klink married Wickliff Parsell (1823-1888). Their children were Christian, Blanche, and Bertha. Christian Parsell's children were Ward, Charles, and Grace (deceased). Ward Parsell has a son, Glen, who married Princess Cline; they live in Salem Township. Glen Parsell's children are Robert, Richard, Glenda, Marilyn, Kathleen, Kenneth, and Karen.

Six generations of this family have been associated with Salem Township:

Christian Klink (1795-1872)  
 Elizabeth Klink Parsell (no dates)  
 Christian Parsell (1865-1923)  
 Ward Parsell (1889- )  
 Glen Parsell (1915- )  
 Robert Parsell (1936- )

Eli Klink (1844-1909) married Syrena Deller and their children were Etta, Olen, Ernest, Chester, Lawrence, and Zella. He and his family made their home north of Dutch Mills in section 12. In 1878 Mr. Klink erected the five brick fourteen-room house now owned by Frank Blech. Of Eli Klink's children we are particularly interested in the family of Chester Klink who have all had a part in the building of Salem Township and in the development of its history.

Chester Klink (1879-1948) married Mabel Lacey (1878- ). Their six children are Robert, Vinson, Wayne, Thelma, Wilbur, and Wesley. Robert Klink married Marie Paroda and they have eight children: Joseph Chester, Roberta Marie, Sybilla Martha, Phyllis, Robert Jr., Patricia, John David (deceased), and David John. Vinson Klink married Velma Vincent and has one child, Nancy Ann. Betty Roth makes her home with them and they live in Auburn. Wayne Klink married Lilly Feeney and they have eleven children: Michael, Charles, Mabel, Linda, Mary, Ruth Ann, Richard, Lilly Lou, Wayne, George, and Kelly. Michael Klink married Arlene Dunn and has a son, Michael Ray. Charles Klink married Evaline Davis. Mabel Klink married Loren Bauer. Thelma Klink, daughter of Chester Klink,



married Ernest Warner. Their children are John, Gloria, and James. Wilbur Klink married Maxine Weimer. Their children are: Margie Jean and Von Allen. They live in Florida. Wesley Klink married Joyce Martin and their children are: Dennis, Kenneth, Karen, and Kathy. They live in Ohio.

Six generations of this family have lived in Salem Township:

Christian Klink (1795-1872)  
 Eli Klink (1844-1909)  
 Chester Klink (1879-1948)  
 Wayne Klink (1908- )  
 Michael Klink (1930- )  
 Michael Klink (1952- )

John Klink (1830-1866), son of Christian Klink, settled in Salem Township, section 12, in 1856. He married Elizabeth Meek (1835-1892) and had four children, Mary, Thomas (died at the age of thirteen), Caroline (died at the age of fourteen), and Lovina (died at nine years of age). Mary Klink (1857-1926) married Nathaniel Killinger (1849-1891). Their children were Minnie, Morton (1877-1895), and Lloyd. Minnie Killinger (1874- ) married Clyde Dole (1876- ) and their children are Zema, D.N., and Fermin. Fermin Dole married Rheuie Coggshell and their two daughters are Nellie Jean and Barbara Ann. They reside in section 12 on the homestead.

Six generations of this family have made Salem Township their home:

Christian Klink (1794-1872)  
 John Klink (1829-1866)  
 Mary Klink Killinger (1857-1926)  
 Minnie Killinger Dole (1874- )  
 Fermin Dole (1915- )  
 Nellie Ann Dole (1940- )

George Clink, the brother of Christian Klink, came from Germany and settled in Ohio. This family spelled their name with a "C". George Clink married Catherine Smith and had seven children, and Charlie Clink was one of them. He served several years in the

Civil War. Charlie Clink (1838-1916) married Catherine Ritter (1844-1925) and they had six daughters: Mary, Laura (died when seven), Jennie, Carrie, Mattie, and Nellie. Mary Clink married David Freed and their daughters were Doris and Zoa. They lived in Salem Township for some years. Jennie Clink (1874-1905) married Sam Allen and their son is Wendell. Carrie Clink (1876- ) married Charlie Libey (1870-1945) and they had two children, Lucile and North (1901-1953). Lucile Libey married Ancil Buss and their children are Mildred, Catherine, Ruth, and Charles. Mildred married Wilbur Brand.

Catherine Buss married Doyle Schmidt. Ruth Buss married Carol Holden. Charlie Buss is serving in the Army. Mattie and Nellie Clink live at Dearborn, Michigan.

One of the older couples living near Hollister Corner is Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bickel. Frank Bickel (1875- ) married May Sink (1877- ) and they have six children: Beulah, Basie, Bernice, Cecil, Carlise, and Dorothy. Beulah Bickel married Herbert Coney and seven children were born to them. Only one son, Lee Coney, lives within the township. Lee Coney married Evelyn Kern and their children are Gerald, Geraldine, Robert, and a son who is deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bickel celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1948 with all their children present.

The little community center around Hollister Corner at the present time include the families of Brown DeGraw, Wayne Klink, Maynard Ulmer, Rollo Halsey, Clyde and Kenyon Boots, Verild Shumaker, Vesta Hughes, Ralph Jones, Donald Boyer, Frank Bickel, and Flora and Earl Ringler. Earl Ringler lives on the farm that was owned by his grandfather, Jacob Parr. Chauncy and Flora Ringler lived at Hollister Corner for many years and their children were



Harold, Cecil, Berneice, Earl, and Alice. Only Earl and Berneice live in Salem Township. Berneice married Charles Rowe and they live in Hudson. Their children are Wava, Charlotte, Ruth, and Larry. Wava is married to Richard White and they have one son, Max.

Mr. and Mrs. Maynard Ulmer and son Russell have recently bought acreage near Hollister Corner. Their farm was owned by William Wood (1871-1921) at one time. William, the son of John Russell Wood, married Clara Mills. Their children were Blanche, Ada, and Walter. Blanche Wood married Carl Tritch. Ada married Roy Luttmann and their children are Wymond and Harold. Wymond married Waneta Goodwin and has one child, Cinda Kay. Harold married Janet Jackson, and they have one son, John Lynn.

Walter Wood married Ermal Hart and they have no children. All of this family are residents of Salem Township where they have contributed to the advancement and welfare of the communities in which they live.

Five generations have lived in the township:

John Russell Wood (no dates)  
 William Wood (1871-1921)  
 Blanche Wood Tritch (1896- )  
 Orlo Tritch (1917- )  
 Jack Tritch (1947- )

Rollo Halsey purchased the Bert Manahan farm which is north of Hollister Corner. He married Eloise Cogshell and their sons are Dennis, Craig, and Larry.

Hollister Corner seems to reflect the stability, determination, and progress of the pioneer families, for their descendants have remained in the "old neighborhood" to carry on the task that originated over one hundred years ago.

## CRUSAN CORNERS

Crusan Corners was located just east of the farm home of Ward Sparks in section 24. An angling road came from a southeasterly direction and crossed the east and west road. This crossing was known as Crusan Corners.

E. Crusan was one of the first settlers to come to Salem Township and settled in section 13. He owned and managed a tavern at this corner, but evidently left Salem Township in a short time and there is no available information concerning him. Just west of Ward Sparks' house in section 24 was the Ransburg Burial Ground. There were only a few bodies buried there, and they were removed to Hollister Cemetery.

George D. Ransburg I represents the first generation of Ransburgs in Salem Township. His six children were Anna, Martin V., Rachael, Fred, George W., and Lottie. Anna Ransburg married Henry Denison. Martin V. Ransburg (1842-1900) married Martha Bundy, and after her death he married Cora Zellar (1863-1953). Martin V. Ransburg was a physician for many years in Salem Village and also taught school. He and his second wife had one son, George.

George Ransburg II (1889- ) married Florence McCrumb (1898- ), and they have five children: Catherine, George III, Cora May, Florence, and Marshall Vern. Catherine Ransburg married Gordon LeMaster, and their children are Paul, Anita K., William, and John Frederick. George III Ransburg married Imo Jewel McDonald, and their children are Robert Vern, Ronald, Karen, and Sharon. They live in Louisiana where he is in the Army. Cora May Ransburg married Medwin Heineman, and they have three children, Medwin Jr., Cora Lee, and Ruth Ann. Florence Ransburg married Edward Stoltz and has one child, Diana. Marshall Vern



Ransburg married Dorothy Smart.

Rachael Ransburg married William Noll, and their family account is with the Nolls.

Fred Ransburg married Mattie Zellar and had one son, Reuel. Ruel Ransburg married Evelyn Shufelt, and their family is in the Hughes account.

Lottie Ransburg married Henry Oberlin. They had a store in Salem for a few years.

Three schoolhouses have been built on the northeast corner of Sparks Corners. The first school was built very close to the present corner, and when the grading was done for the road, the men unearthed the old school foundation. The second building was a frame structure, that, according to the deed, was moved in 1898 a little north of the corner and is now owned and occupied by the Lee Coney family. The third frame building still stands on the northeast corner. These schools have been known as Klink No. 2, Ransburg School and Sparks School. Raymond Holden of Moline, Illinois was the last teacher. Other teachers that taught at these schools were Clara Metz, Frank Hughes, E. B. Parsell, Nellie Shaffstall, Jennie Clink, John Ousterhout, Blanche Gramling, Mattie Clink, Elsie Wisel, Florence Butler Jones, and Dale Hughes. Mention has been made of several log schools in this vicinity, but there is no authentic record concerning them.

On the Salem Township map of 1876 is shown a fort that was called Fort Ancient. This is in section 23, and the farmers in that area report the finding of many Indian stones and arrows. A dirt wall was built about four or five feet high and two hundred feet in diameter. Wigwams were put up inside the wall for protection against enemy tribes or the white settlers. Over the

period of years this wall has been leveled by the processes of farming but some Salem Township men, who have lived in that area, remember playing on the walls of old Fort Ancient.

Living near Sparks Corners at the present time are Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Goodrich and their three children, Eleanor, Helen, and <sup>BEVERLY</sup> Veberley. They are active participants in farm and community organizations. Mr. and Mrs. Carson Kaiser and son Roger live just east of the corner. An airplane crashed several years ago near their farm home killing three people. Mr. and Mrs. Ira Bright live east of the corner, where Mr. Bright farms. They are both teachers in the Flint Schools. Mr. and Mrs. A.I. Sunday live in this community where they have lived for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Ray Sunday and children, Dorothy and David, live near the parental home. The Wilhelm farm is on the northwest corner.

After the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Marion Sparks, their son, Ward, remained on the home farm. He married Zema Ettinger, and their children are Robert, Richard, and Mary Jane. Robert Sparks married Natalie Iddings, and their children are Robert Scott and Paul Ward. Richard Sparks married Celeste Hanselman, and their children are Nancy and William. Mary Jane Sparks married Cleetus Sanders. Ward Sparks taught at Wood, North Klink, and Salem Center Schools and served the Township as trustee. Zema Ettinger Sparks taught at Gillespie and North Klink Schools.

Other trustees mention in the township records are David Haskins, Charley Libey, Ick Parsell, Oakley Amerman, Worthy Stroman, and Will Morrison.

In the summer of 1953 several farms in Salem Township were leased for prospective oil. The leased area was a diagonal plot



through the township from southeast to northwest. The land was leased for 50¢ an acre, the company to receive 7/8 and the farmer 1/8 of the oil. In the early spring of 1954 an oil well was drilled in section 22 on the farm of Cecil and Don Noll. Gas pockets were reported and a small vein of oil, but no information was released.

Dial telephones were installed throughout the township in the early spring of 1954, but they were not put into use until the summer months.

As progress makes history we are mindful of the great progress made in the radio field, for during 1953 and 1954 many Salem Township homes were equipped with television. The first radios were installed in about 1920.

Some of the first automobiles in the township were owned by Eugene Weicht, William Morrison, and Daniel Wisel. Mr. Wisel, in his little red 1914 Brush car, was a familiar sight on Salem Township roads.

Since Ft. Ancient and Crusan Corners, time has changed all things, and now the corner is referred to as Sparks Corners, located on the Cable Line, on a black top highway and in the midst of a rich farming community.

## BIG TURKEY LAKE

Turkey Lake, which lies on the western boundary, is the largest lake in Salem Township. Big Turkey Lake was much smaller when the first settlers arrived. At that time it was two lakes connected by a narrow channel that was dry enough for wading at certain times of the year. There were only two islands that could be seen and two or three submerged ones. Now, there are many islands, mostly in the southern part. There is very little natural shoreline left and this is on the farm of William Hose. The soil around the lake is marl with a marl bottom. There is no good <sup>A</sup> bething beach. The natural shore is variable and goes off very sharply.

About the last of the nineteenth century, Emanuel Stroh contracted for the marl adjoining for the manufacture of cement. Soon after 1900, the Wabash Portland Cement Company came in and built a cement plant on the northwest side in LaGrange County, north of Stroh. The Wabash Railroad built a spur from Helmer to Stroh. This spur was taken up in 1938. In the latter part of 1800, the first dredge ditch was dug. It was started in Little Turkey Lake near Hudson and came through Lime Kiln to Big Turkey Lake. A channel was also dredged from Big Turkey to Henry Lake. The outlet is in LaGrange County at Mongo. This ditch was cleaned in 1921.

Fisherman claim that the fish are better in Turkey Lake because of the lime bottom.

After Stroh was started in about 1900, the farmers of Salem Community saw the need for a road around the south end of the lake, so a petition was circulated for a road starting at the corner of section 7, 8, 17, 18, and going south along lines of



sections 17 and 18, three-fourths of a mile, then west to the county line. This road was built about 1902. Most of the work was donated. All of Big Turkey Lake is in sections 7 and 18 in Steuben County with a small portion in LaGrange County.

It is possible that there are more than 500 acres in Big Turkey Lake now. It is not as deep as some lakes, but is more like a river with a channel, as there is a movement at all times.

About 1898, Alfred D. Denison sold a lot fifty feet wide to William Lepley and William Hose. At that time it was called Weber's Landing. The approach to the landing was across Weber's farm which is now owned by Eshu Tritch. Mr. Lepley and Mr. Hose built a cottage by the lake which was the first cottage on the lake.

In recent years Turkey Lake has grown from its native wild state to a busy lake resort with many attractive cottages bordering its shoreline. For several years, Claude Gettys has operated a neighborhood store and boat livery on the south side of the lake.

On the north and east shores of Big Turkey Lake, a beautiful addition is being developed, known as Wildwood by the Lake. It covers nearly 58 acres of the most beautiful wooded land with nearly a mile of shore front. Mr. J. W. Sprinkle was associated with Maude and Max Murray in this enterprise. After the death of J. W. Sprinkle in 1946, his brother, W. V. Sprinkle, purchased the property and is continuing with the development of this addition.

Vern D. Denison, whose farm edges the east shores of Big Turkey Lake, has done much in developing the east side of the lake. In 1945, Denison's Beach was laid out. In 1946, the first addition to the beach was dedicated, and, in 1948, the second addition was dedicated. Denison's Beach contains over one hundred lots.

An interesting story is related about the Potawatomi Indians and Turkey Lake. Delicious purple berries grew on the western shores of the lake, and the squaws would take their canoes and paddle across the lake to pick them. One day, they crossed the lake, and, as they were picking, they noticed a storm approaching. They hurriedly jumped into their canoes and started for the east shore. One squaw thought her canoe would go faster if she would set a bush up in the bow of the canoe. The wind caught the bush, capsized the canoe, and the squaw was drowned. Mr. Otis Wisel and other white settlers expressed their words of sympathy to the Indians, and all they would reply was, "Too much bush; too much bush."

One of the pioneers who settled in the vicinity of Big Turkey Lake was John McLain (1792-1855). He came to Salem Township in 1844 and bought a tract of unimproved land from John Candy. He built a log house and the family moved into it in April of 1845. John McLain married Eunice Nelson (1803-1876). There was a family of thirteen children, and Leonard M. McLain (1834-1901) was one of them. He enlisted in 1861 in the Twenty-first Indiana Infantry. His entire term of service was four and a half years longer than any other soldier from Salem Township. Leonard married Mary Fast (1868-1921). They had two children, Erdly L. (1868 ? -1925) and Ray (1884-1952). In the family Bible that is in the possession of Clifford McLain, the early members spelled the last name, "McLean". In 1901, the records show the spelling to be "McLain".

Leonard N. McLain had four brothers and two brothers-in-law in the Army at the same period. Probably no other family can equal the record of the John McLain family in military service.



Erdly McLain married Phoebe Miller (1871-1931). One son, Clifford, survived them. For fourteen years, Erdly McLain drove the school hack to Salem. Two horses pulled the hack, which was an enclosed vehicle with seats along the side so the passengers were face to face. Over the period of years, the children became very fond of Mr. McLain, and he was known to buy gifts often for those who were graduated or would move away.

Clifford McLain married Edna Mortoff (1895) and their children are Beatrice Mae (1916) (Mrs. Larry Ritter), who lives in Florida, James Leonard (1922-1945), who was killed in the service of his country, Donald (1918) who married Josephine Burch and has four children, Gordon, Michael, Stephen, and Sandra; Helen Maxine (1924) who married Ray Cramer and has one child Stanley.

This family can be proud of their six generations in Salem Township and the military record they have continued.

John McLean (McLain) (1792-1855)  
 Leonard McLain (1834-1901)  
 Erdly McLain (1868-1925)  
 Clifford McLain (1891- )  
 Donald McLain (1918- )  
 Gordon McLain (1938- )

Ray McLain (1884-1952) married Mary Roop (1883-1908) and they had one girl, Florence (1907) who married Otto DeWitt and lives in Battle Creek, Michigan. They have no children. She is a nurse. He was a World War I veteran.

Ray McLain's second marriage was to Mary Jewel (1896). Their children are: Mary Arlene McLain (1914) married Ralph Coleman, lives in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and has no children. Ruth C. McLain (1916) married Sherman Atwood, lives in New York, and has four children, Ray, Jeanne, Paul, and Jo Ann.

Charles Emmet McLain (1919) married Delia Parker, lives in Salem Township, and has two children, Nellie and Lesly. Emmet was in the Navy for two years. Marjorie J. McLain (1923)

married Charles Geark; has three children, Susan, Dorothy, and Jimmy; and lives in LaGrange County.

Kenneth Ray McLain (1926) married Viola Weimer. They have three children, Kevin, Charlene, and Margo. They live in LaGrange County. Kenneth was in the Army for two years. Sharon R. McLain (1932) married Maynard Warble and has two children, Alan and Mary Lynn. Maynard was in the Navy four years.

One mile north of Turkey Lake is the Gillespie Schoolhouse which was built in 1890 when David Haskins was trustee. The land was taken from the Weaver farm and George Resler had the contract for building both the Gillespie and Wood schools. Men from the community worked on the buildings at seventy-five cents a day. The Gillespie family lived across the road so the school acquired the name, "Gillespie". Sunday School was held in this school in 1898. Helen Bodley Stevens was the last teacher here in 1922. The building still stands as a sentinel of pleasant memories and high ideals.

Mrs. Cora Wisel Shields compiled the following list of early school teachers in the township. This list represents the entire township, and some of them may have taught at Gillespie: Jerusha B. Wisel, Amasa Ellithorp, Annie Day, Artie Wisel, Francis Glasco, Eliza Wright, Tena Acker, Alice Acker, A. H. Barber, Mary Barber, Ida Parsell, Etta Parsell, Eva Chaffee, George Ellithorp, Lettie Ellithorp, Pyrl Gunsauillus, Jennie Fackler, Mary Kerlin, Ella Wert, Nora Teal, Manda Harpster, Alice Ousterhout, Eva Jackson, Frone Emerson, Cora Snyder, Mary Snyder, Newton W. Gilbert, Enos B. Parsell, Ezra Dodge, Lura Shaffstall, Charity Laughry, Alva H. Averill, M. F. Campbell, Elsie M. Wisel, Seth Avery, Frank Hughes, Otis Wisel Jr., Ruby Boyer, Tillie Wisel, Ruth Ayres, and Zema Ettinger.



West, about one half mile from Gillespie School, where Mrs. Blanch Smith resides at the present time, is the farm where the pioneer families of Peter and Angus McKinley settled. They built a log house and after a few years residence, they moved to La-Grange County. The McKinley family were very progressive. They had a flour mill and a glove factory at Ontario. One night, horse thieves stole a large number of the gloves. Discouraged with the ordeal, Mr. McKinley returned to his former home. Florence Herbert Heffley, who resides in Salem Township, is a great granddaughter of the McKinley family. Angus Woodford, who practices law in Holdenville, Oklahoma, is also a great grandson.

One mile east of Big Turkey Lake on the southeast corner stood another old school known as Hickory Grove. When this frame building was erected, it was surrounded by a grove of beautiful hickory trees, and thus the name of the school. Some of the teachers mentioned at Hickory Grove were Jennie Freygang (the first teacher and half-sister of Susie Weaver), Zella Denison, Kay Butler, Nellie Klink, Ward Sparks, Mike Hovarter, Grace Hall, George Ellithorp, Lillie Beigh, and John Ousterhout. Teachers' Institutes were held at Hickory Grove. Seymour Butler was the trustee for a time, and was followed in office by Adam Shaffstall.

In 1941 Harvey VanPelt moved the Hickory Grove School just east of the corner near his farm home where he uses it for a chicken house and garage. Mr. and Mrs. Enos Mead built a new home on the Hickory Grove Corner in 1953.

In the spring of 1849, Daniel David Denison and family came from Ohio and settled on the west eighty acres in section 16, now owned by Frank Hughes. Mrs. Denison was Elizabeth Tubbs and her people settled on the farm now occupied by Jay Hoyer. Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Denison had seven children: Almeda, married to Dr.

William Bevier; Henry married a Ransburg girl; Orlando married Mary McLain; Alfred married Laura Eunice VanPelt; and the youngest daughter, Lozina, married Rufus DeWitt. The other two children died young.

Alfred Denison (1846-1918) was twice married. He had five children by his first wife. Three of them were Delbert, Will, and Glen. Laura Eunice Denison (1858-1930) had a son by her first marriage, Byron Bovee (1878) who was only three when his father died. To Alfred and Laura Denison were born three children, Zella Denison Rusler (1891), Vern Denison (1894), and Arthur (1898), who lives in Texas.

In 1872, Alfred bought the farm where his son, Vern, now lives in section 18, from a Mr. Hedglin. Only a small patch was cleared and the road from the corner was not open. It was laid out, but both sides were owned by the same man, and he kept the rail fence across to keep trespassers away. The fence was left down so many times that he became tired of closing it and left it permanently open.

Vern Denison married Esther Grate and their children are Alfred Dale (1938), Eunice Ellen (1940), Mary Esther (1944), William David Denison (1948), and Judith Ann (1949).

Just south of the Butler apple orchard is the farm of Eshu Tritch. Eshu represents the third generation of the Tritch family. Frederick (1825-1881) and Margaret (1826-1888) Troutman Tritch were the first generation of the Tritch family in Salem Township. They were both natives of Germany and were married there. Frederick came to the United States in 1853 and, in 1855, his family arrived in this country. They lived in Ohio and in Allen County, Indiana, and settled in Salem Township in 1864, south of Lime Kiln Lake. This land was cleared by Frederick



Tritch and his home and barn were both of log structure. Prosperity came to the Tritch family by hard labor and self denial. Frederick Tritch and wife had the following children: Margaret and George, born in Germany, Adam, John, Frederick, and William, besides Jacob, Mary, and Lydia who died in infancy. Adam Tritch (1857), the second generation of the Tritch family, married Mary Shade (1861) in 1880. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Tritch are Maude, Hattie, Jessie (died in infancy), Edna (died when 18), Orville Ray, Daisy, Carl, and Eshu.

Maude Tritch married George Erwin and their children are Clair, Ruth, Esther, Mildred and Wilbur. Clair married Frances Grate and their children are Herschel and Carol. Ruth Erwin married William Nichols and their children are Kenton, Norma, David, and Mary Ellen. Esther is single. Mildred married William Nappe. Wilbur married Norma Brabaut and the their children are Robert, Edward, Henry, and Jeffery.

Hattie Tritch married Arthur Hoyer and their four children are Glida, Paul, Mary Ann, and Evelyn. Glida Hoyer married Olen Favourite and their children are Max and Lou Ann. Paul is the father of six children, Kathleen, Billy, Elizabeth, Johnny, Jack, and Richard. Mary Ann Hoyer married Arthur Taylor and their children are Arthur, Janet Louise, and Peggy Ann. They live in Kansas City. Evelyn married Robert Ulrich, they have no children and live in New Mexico.

Orville Ray Tritch married Viola Weber. Their children are Ilene, Dorothy, Helen, Harold, Donald, and Lois. Ilene married Russell Swift and their children are Amy Lou and Ann. Dorothy married Kenneth Favourite and they have one son, Lawrence. Helen married John Harris and their children are Michael, John, Phillip, and Candace. Harold Tritch married Wanda Batterson and their

children are Lynn, Bonnie, and Stephen. Donald Tritch is unmarried. Lois Tritch married Wilbur Wilson. Daisy married Marl Shumaker. Their children are Velma Lynn, Keith Robert, John Burdette, Heber Lee, Wilbur Dean, Ned Elwood, Jean Ardith, and Beverly Ann. Velma is married to Hugh Farrington and lives in Waterloo. Keith married Marjorie Myers and they live in San Fernando, California. John married Pauline Frey. They reside in Salem and their children are Judith Ann, Alice Jane, Melody, and Diana. Heber married Suzanne Bellinger and they make their home in Angola. Wilbur is married to Evelyn Gehring, residing in Kendallville. Ned married Patricia, living now in San Fernando, California. Jean is married to Jay Church and lives in Waterloo.

Carl Tritch married Blanche Wood and their children are Orlo, Audrey, William Lavon, Marjorie, Birdena, and Keith. Orlo married Blanche Hammon and their children are Jack and Nancy. Audrey married Carlton Milleman and has two children, Allen and Gloria. William is married to Thelma Sander and their children are Jimmie and Lyle. Marjorie is married to Orville Kuckuck. Birdena is married to Ervin Williams. Their children are Shirley and Jeanie. Keith married Kathleen Vance.

Eshu Tritch married Ethel Main and their children are Virginia, Eva, Richard, Lloyd, Margaret Ellen, and Joseph. Virginia married Louis Kreiss and they have one son, David. They live in Modesto, California where Virginia is a librarian. Eva married Robert Shaffer and their children are Roberta, Emily, Cynthia, and Cathy. They live in Salem Township. Richard Tritch is in college preparing to be a teacher. Lloyd Tritch married Ruth Alvarez and their children are Michael Albert and Karen Sue. They live in Hayward, California. Joseph Tritch is in the Air Force.

North of Turkey Lake in section 6 lives the family of Scott



Pfafman. This farm was formerly the home of Scott's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Pfafman. Scott Pfafman married Lois Huelsenbeck and their four sons are Niles, Kent, Robert, and Aaron.

Nearly all of Salem Township is a farming area and Turkey Lake borders our western boundary to bring us still more scenic pleasure and historical knowledge.

## TURKEY CREEK

Turkey Creek was located in section 29 on the present State Highway 327 about one and a half miles north of Helmer. It was named for the flowing creek along whose banks an abundance of wild turkeys was to be found.

The Turkey Creek post office was established in 1852 in the home of Almon Chaffie. Matt Cary started a store in the "lean-to" of his house on the north side of the forks in the road. This first "store" was said to have contained a barrel of salt, a barrel of flour, and a barrel of whiskey.

The town was formally platted in 1857 by Porter Johnson and a general store built in the triangular plot of ground where the three roads intersected. The post office was believed to have been moved to the store at this time.

Turkey Creek, the largest stream of water in Salem Township, flowed at the bottom of the hill north of the store. Here once stood a sawmill owned by a man named Douglas. The ford west of the bridge was used long after the bridge was built as a place to water oxen and horses, and later to wash the carriages that were becoming popular as the better roads were built. Upstream from the bridge was a cider mill and tannery and cobbler's shop owned by a man named Swartz. He was said to be very skilled in harness and shoe-making. Farther up the stream from this busy spot was a deep place in the stream which was the scene of many Sunday baptismal services. It also was the "swimmin' hole" for the boys during the week.

The first school was across the road from the store to the south and about twenty rods west. It was a small frame building which served for school, singing school, and church. An early teacher here was Harvey Appleman, and another man, Al Gonzer,



taught singing. This building was abandoned in about 1887 when a new brick building was erected about fifteen rods east of it. The old building was sold to Emory White who used it as a grain storage for many years.

A dance pavilion and picnic ground known as the "Bowery" stood in a grove of trees on the north side of the creek. Here also was a nursery, owned by Mr. Harner, growing mostly fruit trees. This enterprise did a good business in the surrounding community. It was the only nursery ever in Salem Township. Some of the earliest settlers of these corners were Dick Richards, George Ruthman, Peter and Al Tinklepaw, and Francis Glasgow.

The store passed into the hands of George Ellithorp in about 1881 or 1882 with J. D. Perkins of Stroh as his clerk. Mr. Perkins states that the weekly Toledo Blade was the most popular newspaper, and the day it arrived was always a busy one at the store. In reminiscing on these days, Mr. Perkins tells this story:

"There was a box always kept supplied with smoking tobacco for the fellows who always hung around the store. This was paid for by the small coins that the smokers put into this box. It seemed that the men felt one old gentleman was 'a mite close with the coin, and a bit too free with the 'baccy. The box was nearly empty, so they decided to mix a bit of gunpowder with the remainder while the old man (George Ruthman) was at dinner. He came back, scraped out the remaining tobacco, and lit his pipe. Of course, the gunpowder ignited and exploded as the fire reached them, causing a miniature fireworks display. Calmly, the old man sat and smoked, only wiping a spark away if it hit his face. When he was finished, he tapped the dottle from his pipe and went home. First, there was absolute silence, which was broken by one of the

perpetrators of the joke (Mr. Glasgow). 'Grief, boys! Wasn't he brave! He smoked every drop; never wasted a bit!' The joke seemed to win the old fellow to smoke as much as he wished regardless of the amount he contributed."

Turkey Creek remained a center of activity until the Wabash Railroad was put through in 1892. At this time, Dan Pray had the store with his son, Edward. Dan moved to a new store in Helmer, and Ed remained at Turkey Creek until the post office was moved to Helmer in 1893. Then the store was sold to Herrick and Hoover, and soon passed from existence. The school was the last to go when the new idea of consolidating schools began in this township shortly after 1910.

The road west of Turkey Creek was originally an Indian trail that followed the creek northwest to the Pigeon River. This trail was used by Indians and French fur traders traveling to and from Fort Wayne before our people settled here.

The home of Jeptha Wright (1788-1874) was located about one and a quarter miles west of Turkey Creek on this road in section 19. The sturdy frame house he built there is the oldest house in that locality, and is now owned and occupied by Arthur Parr. Jeptha Wright gave land from his farm for the Wright Cemetery which lies just east of the farm home. His daughter, Mary Taylor, was the first to be buried there on July 15, 1841. Mr. Jeptha Wright was the great-grandfather of David E. Wright (1873-1950).

Ethan Rogers (1758-1849), a soldier of the Revolutionary War, is buried there. He served under the gallant Steuben, for whom our county is named. Mr. Rogers was here from Pennsylvania, visiting his daughter, Mrs. Abel Bennett, at the time of his death. Two veterans of the War of 1812, Darius Dryer and David Reed, and twenty-four who served in the Civil War are also at rest there.



In 1891, a church known as Union Chapel was built across the road and a little east of the cemetery. For several years it was used for services by different denominations. The building trustees were E. Metz, S. Cannon, C. Shade, H. Wright, and William Hayward. As the town of Helmer grew, the church was used less and less until in 1940 it was sold to the Nazarenes and is still in use. The original corner stone of the church is given a prominent spot in the Wright Cemetery.

A Civil Aeronautics Emergency Airport was established just south of this corner on the William Bennett farm, section 19, in 1928. Howard Hecht, a grandson of Francis Glasgow was one of the first attendants. This airport received a rather detailed hourly weather report for several years. It was a rather important field on the route between Cleveland and Chicago as its altitude was the highest of any field along this route, and many times, when all the other fields were invisible because of low ceilings, this field and its beacon light were plainly visible and many emergency landings were made there in bad flying weather. The beacon was discontinued in 1952 and was later moved to Tri-State Airport west of Angola.

Mr. Francis Glasgow (1834-1899) who was an early teacher at the Ridge School and a farmer, lived just south of the Turkey Creek Corners. Francis Glasgow (1834-1899) married Amy Rice (1864-1947). Amy Rice was the daughter of Asa and Elizabeth Rigby Rice. The Rigby family lived one half mile west and one half mile south of Parker Corners. Mr. Rigby built a "lean to" on his house where he repaired shoes and boots and also designed and made new ones.

Francis and Amy Glasgow had four children, Kitty, Mary Elizabeth, Asa, and Otho. Kitty Glasgow (deceased) married Edward Hecht. They had four children, Amy, Harold, Grace, and Willard. Amy Hecht married Paul Kline and they have three children

and three grandchildren. Harold Hecht married Lucile Hasselman and has two children, Joyce and Lynn. Grace Hecht married Thomas Beaulieu and has one child, Doris. Willard Hecht married Maude Allen and has two children, Juva Dee and Charles.

Mary Elizabeth Glasgow (deceased) married George Emrick and they have six children, Georgia, Franklin, Bernice, Ralph, Emogene, and Lonise.

Georgia Emrick married Louis Peterson and has six children and three grandchildren. They live in Detroit. Franklin Emrick married Helen Thompson. They have three children and live in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Bernice Emrick married Joseph Mirsky, has three children, and lives in Chicago, Illinois. Ralph Emrick married Mary Longcor and they have two children, Ralph Allen and Mary Elizabeth. Emogene Emrick married Edward Johnson and their four children are Hazel Marie, James Edward, Mary Louise, and Jerel Lee. Louise Emrick married Daniel Clarida and they have one child and live in Chicago.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Emrick live near Helmer on the old Emrick farm. Mary Emrick has been a teacher in the township school and also gives music lessons to a great number of children. Ralph Emrick is an industrious farmer and specializes in Jersey cattle. Both Mr. and Mrs. Emrick are active in the United Brethren Church as well as many other clubs and organizations in the community.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Johnson live in Helmer, where he operates a grocery store. They are active in the United Brethren Church as well as community affairs.

Asa Glasgow (1889-1954) married Carma Weicht and their children are Madolyn, Carroll, and Eugene. Madolyn Glasgow married Charles Coyle and they have one daughter, Betty. Madolyn is a nurse and Mr. Coyle farms the Glasgow farm. Carroll Glasgow married Teresa



Ley and they have five children, Ann, Roger, William, Anita, and Ruth. Besides farming, Carroll Glasgow is the County Manager of the Albion Production Credit Association, with offices in Angola. Carroll Glasgow was in a prison camp in Germany for two years, (1943-1945). His friend, John McEwen of Chicago, was captured at the same time and together they escaped from their captors. After returning to Salem Township, Carroll, with the aid of his Army friend, went into the business of raising chinchillas. In May, 1949, they purchased two pairs of chinchillas which were the first in the county. He now has about fifty animals. They sell for a thousand dollars a pair for breeding purposes and have a value of from fifty to two hundred dollars for each pelt.

Eugene Glasgow makes his home with his mother. Otho Glasgow married Arlene Leas. They have two daughters, Margaret Schick who has three sons and makes her home in Indianapolis; and Marilyn Zimmerman who has a son and daughter and lives in Fort Wayne.

In 1897 Adam Boyer traded his DeKalb County farm and moved to Salem Township. His wife was Blanche Conrad, daughter of Domn and Margaret (Lindsey) Conrad. Their nine children were: Grace Leas (deceased), Ralph, Bruce, Ruth Bowerman (deceased), Bertha Wilson, Ruby Butler, Naomi Amerman, Amy (deceased), and Merritt.

Ralph Boyer married Delphia Martin and their children are Donald, Robert, Jack, Irene, and David. Donald married Bessie Noll. Robert married Mabel Shreves and their children are James Steven, and Terry. Jack married Kathleen Sing; their children are Cherry, Jacque, and Gary.

Just about forty rods north of the present village of Helmer was the site selected for the early school and church of the

community. This was called Pleasant Ridge. The plot of land for the school was from the farm of Henry Hovarter, now owned and occupied by LaOmer (Tim) Bidwell. This plot was across the road and about four rods north of where the U. B. Church now stands. This first school house was a frame building and was replaced by another larger building which was built a little south of the first one. After the second school building was built, the older one was transformed into a church and dedicated to the Church of God. This building was used until the town of Helmer was a growing town, then a new church-house was built in the town in the year of 1894.

A church was built across the road in 1898 and dedicated to the United Brethren. It was largely built by donation of materials and money given by Henry Hovarter. In 1952 and 1953, extensive improvements were made and a basement dining room was added.

In the year of 1906, during the trusteeship of Hiram Billman, a third schoolhouse was erected close to where the two others had stood. This was of white bricks and had four rooms and a furnace. The building was about thirty-five by forty feet and was two stories high. This was considered very modern for the community, and accommodated the first eight grades, and, the second year after it was built, first two years of high school were also taught there. Professor Markley was the high school teacher. However, this school was closed and the children were taken to the new consolidated high school in the center of the township in 1934. The building was used as a recreational center by the young people and for various civic affairs for a few years until it was sold to Paul Schurr in 1948. It has since been partly torn down.

The Methodist Church which stands on the southeast corner of the four corners just south of the above mentioned buildings, was moved from the Custer Corners about a mile south of Helmer



in 1927, the plot of land for it being given by Mr. and Mrs. Worthy Stroman, whose farm home lies just south and across the road from the church. Large transformers, owned by the Northern Indiana Light and Power Company, were erected directly opposite the Methodist Church in 1948.

## THE VILLAGE OF HELMER

The village of Helmer is located on the southwest corner of section 32, and is at the intersection of the Wabash Railroad and Highway 327. It was platted on May 4, 1892, by Cyrus J. Helmer (born in Onadaga County, New York, and died here in 1918) and his wife Lucy Speers Helmer (1848-1922). His son, Charles (1878) and wife Kate McLugin Helmer (1878) still live in this village named for his parents. The Charles Helmer's have four children, Cyrus J. of Kendallville, Mrs. Raymond (Opal) Shaffer of Noble County, Mrs. Lucy Wolfe of Noble County, and Kenneth of Ligonier.

In 1892, when the Wabash Railroad came to Helmer from the East, Miss Mamie Hayward, daughter of William Hayward, was the first telegraph operator and station agent. Her initials, M. H., have always been Helmer's call letters. The first passenger train to make the run through into Chicago was in the summer of 1893. It was an excursion train that picked a whole coachful of passengers at Helmer bound for the World's Fair in Chicago.

Miss Hayward held this post until her marriage to Jada Perkins in the autumn of 1897. They have three sons, Russell (deceased), Keith of Phoenix, Arizona, and Kenneth of near Stroh.

By this time the railroad was a busy, growing concern and the depot was operated on a twenty-four hour basis by Gene Crosley and Charles Billman. The stockyards were built by this time and many thousands of hogs, cattle, sheep, and even horses passed through them. Horses which were running in a semi-wild state in the West were brought here by the carload and sold to be tamed and used as work and driving horses. The stockyards fell into disuse with the coming of the motor truck which enabled the farmers to take their stock in to more centralized points, thus gaining much



time in getting the livestock to their destinations in much less time. They were finally removed in the late 1920's.

John Keel (1878) came to Helmer in 1902 as a clerk at the depot, and in 1904 became a regular agent there. He served as agent for forty-nine years. In 1953, when he retired, he was replaced by L. E. Masters, of Liberty Center, Ohio. During the busy days of the railroad passenger service, there were as many as six passenger trains daily. Passenger service was discontinued about 1928. Mr. Keel and his wife Edith (1886) live a retired life at Helmer. They have two sons, Marion of Hayward, California, and Hershel of Ashley, Indiana.

William Hayward built the elevator in 1893, but soon sold it to Dan Pray. It passed through various hands until 1951 when it was sold by Perkins and Noll to the Farm Bureau Co-operative Association of Steuben County. They have greatly enlarged it and modernized it to meet the growing demands for milling and storage space. Jason Adams, who came here from Adams County in 1927, is the very able manager of this prosperous and busy establishment.

George Parr built the first store and blacksmith shop in the south end of town on the west side of the road next to the railroad property. The blacksmith shop burned down in 1898, and Dan Pray bought the grocery store, catering to the needs of the railroad workers. Dan, followed by his son, Edward, owned a store in Helmer until 1915. Edward (1868-1943) and his wife Clara Metz Pray (1875-1940) spent their last days in a retired life in Helmer. They had no children.

A very modern store for the time was owned by Isaac Hovarter, who moved his store and the post office from Custer Corners, a mile south of Helmer into Helmer in 1893.

Between the years of 1900 and 1915, Helmer was the scene of

a large variety of stores and activities: the grain elevator, the stockyards, the depot with its heavy business of mail, express, and freight; a drugstore owned by John Spearo; a millinery store owned by Pearl and Rilly (Hosford) Tritch; a grocery store owned by George Tritch; a creamery owned by Shlosser Brothers, later used as a cheese factory by Keenan; the first livery stable built by Jim Wren who also owned a butcher shop there when the town was new; and the last livery stable which was owned by Jacob Steffy and fell into disuse about 1910.

Helmer was never without a doctor. Doctors Dove, Moke, and Mercer were among the first. Dr. Robert D. Denman (1873) came to Helmer in 1905 from Adams County, Indiana. He was married to Bertha Copeland (deceased) and has two children, Dean and Winifred. He has been a doctor, counsellor, and friend of the people around Helmer for almost fifty years. His patients were over a radius of about fifteen miles, and he delivered more than two thousand babies in his lifetime of service to the community. He still resides in Helmer, carrying on a moderate practice for one of his years.

Hiram Billman had the first hardware store. The second hardware dealer was Harry Barker, his wife being Cora Hayward, another daughter of William Hayward.

In 1910 they sold the hardware to Worthy Stroman and wife, Clementine (Emrick) who kept it until it was burned with several other buildings in a disastrous fire that threatened to wipe out the town in 1929. Mr. Stroman was township trustee from 1927 until 1935. He has also worked extensively with sheep.

The present hardware is owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Fehling. Mr. Fehling has also given much time in organizing and perfecting details of the Helmer Fire Department. The Department was organized July 20, 1953, and the new truck was

installed on January 19, 1954. Helmer is justly proud of this fine piece of equipment. The truck carries three hundred and fifty gallons of water and one thousand feet of hose, with a pumping capacity of five hundred gallons per minute, and a portable auxiliary pump of the same capacity. They also have a large tank truck for water. The truck is housed on the east side of the street in the fine cement block building erected in 1949. It was first used as a grocery store and filling station by Mr. Edward Johnson. The service station was sold to Walter Heller in 1951. The Johnsons at present own a grocery and filling station of the west side of the street.

The post office, which has changed hands many times, is at present, installed in the grocery store of Ray and Margaret (Sherrick) Hoyer, who have been in the grocery business there since 1936. They have three children, Beverly, Billy, and Kelly.

The first sawmill was owned by William Douglas who was first at Turkey Creek. Levi Shaffer bought the sawmill in 1901 when he moved to Helmer from near the Chilson School Corners. There he had been in business with his father. The Shaffers had three children, Mrs. Erma Butler, Mrs. Esther Butler of Salem Township, and Earl, of Denver, Colorado. Mr. and Mrs. Shaffer spent their last years in Helmer. Mr. Shaffer sold the lumber business to Frank Ewing, who in turn sold it to D. Weimer in 1949. Mr. Weimer is assisted by Russell Shaffer, a nephew of Levi Shaffer.

A second blacksmith shop was built on the east side and was first operated by Jerry Miller. George Strawser was the last blacksmith. When he quit, the building was transformed into a garage and filling station by Angus Wicouff.



## PARKER CORNERS

One mile south of Salem Center is the middle of the township. Here on the northeast corner is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Parker. East of the residence, Mr. Parker operates the Parker Garage, which was started by his father, Logan Parker, in 1926, and Dan took it over in 1934.

The first school house on the corner was a log structure built on the site of the present school house. William DeWitt, in his memoirs related how he and eight chums enlisted in the Civil War in 1863 in this old log school. His chums were Charles Cole, William Bodley, Isaac Humroe, Abraham Headley, Byram Woodford, Adson Chaffey, Wilson Brone, and Frank Sherrow.

The second school built on this corner was a one room frame structure. This school was attended by William Lepley, his sister, Ella, Minor VanPelt, Sherman Strawser, and other neighborhood children. Dr. A. G. Parsell lived where Ed Whysong lives and his daughter, Nellie, taught there at one time. Other teachers would live in the Parsell home during the school term. One day when the teacher had gone to the Parsell's for lunch, the school boys, William Lepley and Minor VanPelt, dropped bread and coaxed some hogs in the schoolhouse, and then closed the door. When the teacher returned and opened the door, it frightened the pigs and in their escape the desks were broken, windows smashed, and everything was in muddy disorder. The teacher punished the boys by having them carry water from the creek and scrub and clean the room.

The third school built at the Center was on the southeast corner and was built by Charlie Klink and Charlie Brown. It was originally built to the south of where it sets now, and it faced

south. The dirt from the hill close to the corner was removed to Little Lake, a few rods to the east. Then it was decided to turn the school house around and move it a little to the north where the hill had been leveled and cut down. Elsie Wisel taught in many of the district schools in the township. When she was teaching here at Center, the first hot lunch program was introduced. When the days grew cold, she would take a large kettle from home, the children would bring vegetables of all kinds, and all forenoon the vegetables would cook on top of the old Round Oak stove, filling the air with an appetizing aroma. At noon they all enjoyed the stew from bowls they had brought from home. Mabel Emerson Greeno was the last teacher at Center in 1917-1918. The building was not used again until 1953-1954 for school purposes. During the summer of 1953 it was remodeled, shingled, and painted. It is used as a shop and work room for the agriculture department of the high school.

The third building on the southwest corner is the present Salem Center High School. It is a one story fire proof building. It has a gymnasium and auditorium in the center surrounded by ten class rooms and office.

In the spring of 1948, through the efforts of Mrs. William Milleman, a Parent Teachers Association was organized and she was the first president. Lois Goodrich was vice president, Alice Parker, secretary and Glida Lochamire, treasurer. Mrs. William Milleman has spent countless hours in the promotion of a school lunch program. She was instrumental in establishing the hot lunch in Salem School. In 1948-49 the Parent Teachers Association sponsored the addition of a kitchen to the southwest corner of the school building, and in October of 1949 the children of Salem School were enjoying hot lunches. Mrs. Milleman and Mrs. Ross

Lacey manage the cooking and serving of the meals, which cost \$1.15 per child for one week. They serve 255 students daily.

Salem Center High School offers courses in English, speech, mathematics, history, government, sociology, science, biology, physics, health, home economics, home nursing, agriculture and shop, commerce, physical education, driver training, and music. The faculty of the school for 1953-1954 is as follows: Leland Fee, principal, Dorothy Duke, Dean Halsey, Helen Hockey, Betty Kanaan, Bessie Lepley, Leda Litwiller, William Melvin, Sam Mercer, Josephine Parsell, Dorothy Powell, James Rowe, and Orlie Willennar. Donald Norman is the trustee. Sam Askey, who lives one half mile south of the schoolhouse, has been the custodian for several years. The 1953-1954 Parent Teachers Association officers are: Mrs. Burdette Leas, president, Mrs. Harold Bovee, vice president, Mrs. LaOmer Bidwell, secretary, and Mr. Emmett McLain, treasurer.

Seven buses come into Salem School bringing children from grades one through high school. One other school is maintained in the township, at Hudson. This school accomodates grades one through six and is taught by Mrs. Delores Christoffel and Mrs. Rowina Ringler. Buses coming into Salem School are driven by Darrell Hughes, Heber Leas, Nihl Noll, Dan Parker, Wade Strawser, Wayne Stràwser, and Dan Wisel.

Isaac (1808-1871) and Margaret Sanderson Parker who died in 1871 came to Steuben County in 1845 and settled in Jackson Township. They had eight children, one dying in infancy and one at the age of twelve. The six surviving were Elizabeth, who married Rev. Frederick Komp of LaGrange Co.; William of Branch Co., Michigan; Mary, who married John Grosbeck; Daniel, Samuel, and Nancy, who married Henry Simmons of Jackson Township. The



sons were all soldiers in the Civil War. After the war, Samuel Parker (1841-1915), returned to Salem Township and in 1881 he bought the Robert Bell farm in section 4. He married Malinda Haines (1848-1902), and they had seven children; five sons, and twin daughters who died in infancy. The five sons were George, Thomas, Earl, Orla, and Logan. George Parker married Cora Kimsey. They are both deceased but have a daughter, Lois, and a son, Morton, living in Columbus, Ohio. Thomas Parker married Laura Shaffstall and had five children; his second wife, Nellie Shaffstall, was the mother of six children. Earl Parker married Margaret Wilson and had two children; his second wife was Theron Hoover and they had one son, Richard. Orla Parker married Belle Brown and they had four children.

Logan Parker married Connie Tritch and they have nine children. They have spent nearly all of their married life in Salem Township and reside at the present time in Salem Village. Their children are: Lynda, Samuel Dan, Thomas, Wanda, Irene, Glova, Dorothy, Mary, and Ilah. Lynda Parker married Merle Loucks and have two sons, Gene and Robert. They live near Montgomery, Michigan. Samuel Dan married Alice Mae Kirchner. They have four sons: Charles, Thomas, Samuel, and James. Thomas Parker, son of Logan, married Joyce Mercer and lives in Redwood City, California. Wanda Parker married Leo Forrester and they have two children, Betty Lee and Clair. Irene Parker married Dean Hefflinger. They live in Ashley. Glova Parker married Wade Spears. They have two children, Bonnie and Jerry. Dorothy Parker married Ronald Lockwood. They have three children, Dewayne, Anna Rose, and Kenneth. Mary Parker married Richard Lepley. They have four children; Nancy K., Richard Udell, Guy Logan, and William Joseph. Ilah Parker married William Hartman and has one daughter, Gloria Jeanne. Her second husband is Hilden Notestine.

The Parker family has long been recognized for their musical talents. During the turn of the century, the Parker brothers, George, Thomas, Earl, Orla, and Logan were prominent singers in the Salem area and their singing was enjoyed at singing schools and parties throughout the community. The younger generations have brought forth some musicians too. Lynda Parker Loucks has written several musical numbers and in 1950 she was the winner of fourth prize in Lorenz Music Publishing Company's sixteenth anniversary competition. Her anthem "God's House" was selected from 400 entries in this national contest. Charles, the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Parker, was an outstanding soloist in his high school days. Charles married Lela Dangler. They have a daughter, Katherine Joan. He is in the Armed Forces at the present time. Charles' younger brothers are singers too. The Parker family is generous and cooperative in sharing all their talents in the communities where they live.

This is another six generation family living in Steuben County.

Isaac Parker (1808-1871)  
 Samuel Parker (1841-1915)  
 Logan Parker (1884- )  
 Dan Parker (1910- )  
 Charles Parker (1933- )  
 Katherine Joan Parker (1953- )

Some fifty years ago living near Parker Corners were the Shaffstall, Gunsauillas, Ellithorp, Whysong, Lepley, Strawser, Phillips, Tumbleson, VanPelt, Dewitt, Allen, Kirlin, and Hovarter families.

Franklin and Annie Shaffstall lived near Parker Corners. They had three daughters, Lura, Nellie, and Elizabeth who taught music lessons in the community for many years. They were active in the Methodist Church. These older members are all gone and there are no descendants living within the township.

Elijah and Elizabeth Gunsauillus lived in the township for

some years but moved to Noble County where they have since made their home. Mr. and Mrs. William Gunsauillus have four children, Leo, Nellie, Vern, and Vine.

Mr. and Mrs. George Ellithorp lived south of Parker Corners. Their three daughters were Vinnie, Harmy, Jessie, and a son, Dale. Vinnie Ellithorp (deceased) was the wife of Guy Teeters. Harmy Ellithorp Martin makes her home in Helmer. Jessie Ellithorp (1888-1941) married Verl Pike. Dale Ellithorp preceded his parents in death.

Living east of the Center schoolhouse was the family of William Lepley (1862-1949), whose parents, Samuel (1830-1909) and Catherine Hender Lepley came to Salem Township in 1864 in a covered wagon. They cleared the land and built their home. William Lepley's grandparents were Peter (1803-1881) and Catherine Dick Lepley who were natives of Pennsylvania but moved to Ohio. After Catherine Dick Lepley's death, Peter Lepley came to Salem Township and spent the last years of his life with his son, Samuel. Samuel and Catherine Hender Lepley were the parents of two children, Ella and William. They were active members of the Reformed Lutheran Church. Ella Lepley (deceased) married Scott Whysong (deceased) and their children were Ford (deceased), Shirley, Edward, Winfred Jay, Loyce, Samuel, and one son died at an early age. Mr. and Mrs. Scott Whysong owned the farm on the southeast corner of Parker Corners. Here they farmed until they moved to Salem, where they died. Edward Whysong married Lillie Courtright and lives on the home farm. Shirley never married and lives in Salem. For many years Shirl Whysong has served the community as a paper hanger, painter and carpenter. Winford Jay served in World War I in Europe. He never married, but lives alone in his comfortable home in Salem. Loyce and Samuel live out of the township.



William Lepley married Rachel Knisley and had one son, Samuel. Samuel Lepley (1861-1949) was the father of eight children: Roy, Pauline, Kenneth, Betty, Jane, Mary, Winifred, and Evelyn.

In 1888 William Lepley married Deborah Conklin (1861-1945). They had a family of six children: Guy, Hazel, Cecil, Herbert, Sheldon, and Katherine. Guy Lepley married Gladys Spangler and has the following children: Udell, who was killed in the service, Winfred, Waneta, Buddy Guy, DeWayne, Deddy D., Richard J., Jimmy, Twila Joyce, Sharon, Karen, and one deceased.

Hazel Lepley married Charles Beaver and lives in Goshen. Cecil Lepley married Bessie Cox, and their two daughters are Marilyn and Beverly. They live in Steuben Township. Herbert Lepley married Alice Stayner and has one son, Robert. They live in California. Sheldon Lepley married Geraldine Courtright, and they live in Salem Township. Katherine Lepley married Alvin Swihart, and they have five daughters: Dora, Phyllis, Marilyn, Kenyln, and Deborah Sue. They live in New Paris, Indiana.

Besides being a farmer, William Lepley followed the carpenter trade for many years. The Lepley families have been industrious and have manifest their abilities in the communities where they reside. They are leaders in the churches and organizations which promote progress, good will, and cooperation.

Six generations of the Lepley family have lived in Salem Township and nearby communities.

Peter Lepley (1803-1881)  
 Samuel Lepley (1830-1909)  
 William Lepley (1862-1949)  
 Guy Lepley (1891- )  
 DeWayne Lepley (1923- )  
 Richard Lepley (1948- )

John and Rilda Tumbleson (both deceased) made their home near Parker Corners and reared three children, Wendell of Chicago, Minnie who lives in Ft. Wayne, and Ruth in Mishawaka.

South of Parker Corners is the Strawser farm which is owned and operated by Wayne Strawser. This farm was purchased in 1881 by Wayne's grandfather, George W. Strawser, who came to Salem Township from Ohio. George W. Strawser fought in the battle of Jonesboro in the Civil War and was wounded. He married Rhoda Rose Higbea after the war. They had five children: W. T. Sherman, Amanda, George D., Mary C., and John W. It was George Strawser who built the straight road from the Strawser house to the main north and south road. It was previously an angling road that led to the northeast from the Strawser home.

Sherman Strawser (1864-1946) married Della M. Anstett (1870-1949) in 1890 and they had seven children: George Earl, Verna, Verda, Carl, Wayne, Wade, and Ruby.

George Earl Strawser married Margaret Baughman, and in less than a year she died. His second marriage was to Emma Wilcox, and their ten children are: Wilma (deceased), Wave, Dean, Tellie, Rhoda (deceased), Donna, Herbert (deceased), Mary, Bud, and Ted.

Verna Strawser married Dan Tritch. Their children are Phyllis, Faye (deceased) and Evelyn.

Verda Strawser married Ralph Daily. Their children are Robert, Helen, Howard, and Ross. Robert Daily married Iola Hose, and their children are Terry and Sally Ann. Helen Daily married Larry Hodge, and their son is Howard. Howard Daily married Margaret Brand. Their children are John, Martha, and Lynn. Ross Daily married Janet VanPelt, and they have one child, Patsy Jo.

Carl Strawser married Imogene Bassett. Their five children are Mildred, Forest, Sherman, Carol Jean, and Naomi.

Wayne Strawser married Esther Ulmer. Their children are Anna Marie, DeWayne, Jean, Don, and Gloria. Anna Marie Strawser

married Alvin Roemer, and their children are Joyetta and Sandra. DeWayne Strawser married Rita Stark, and their children are Larry, Dennis, David, and Stephen. Jean Strawser married Tom Loftus, and they have a son, Tommy. Don and Gloria are at home.

Wade Strawser married Lorene Smith and their children are Twylo and Herman Lee. Twylo Strawser married Dean Norman, and their children are Stephen and Craig. Herman Lee Strawser married Mary Butler and their two little girls are Vicki Lyn and Toni Sue.

Ruby Strawser married Edgar <sup>Hayward</sup>~~Hayworth~~ (deceased). Their son is Bobby Hayward. Ruby's second marriage was to Harold Gantt, and their children are Billy, Patricia, Shirley, and Linda (deceased).

Five generations of the Strawser family have made Salem Township their home.

George Strawser (1843-1914)  
 Sherman Strawser (1864-1946)  
 Wade Strawser (1903- )  
 Herman Lee Strawser (1929- )  
 Vicki Lyn Strawser (1950- )

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Phillips came to Salem Township in 1901, buying 160 acres east of Parker Corners. They erected good buildings and improved the farm and lived there until 1949, when they sold the farm and moved to Angola. They have no children.

In 1915 Frank's brother, Charles A. Phillips (1866-1925), came from Noble County. He bought 80 acres across the road and was a successful farmer and stockman. His wife was Lillie Smith (1872-1946), and they had one son, Claude, who married Delcia Meeks. Their children are Arlene, Ned, Burdette, and Jean. Arlen Phillips married George Wisel. Ned Phillips married Maxine Dunham, and their children are Charles, and Richard. Burdette Phillips married Doris Eckright. Joan Phillips married Harold Mynhier, and their children are Jerry and Larry.



Mr. and Mrs. Arlie Libey have lived for thirty-four years near Parker Corners. Arlie's grandfather, George Libey, came to Salem Township in 1873 and settled in section 25. His father was Almon G. Libey. Arlie Libey's sister, Alta, married Roy Sutherlin. They live near by in Salem Township.

In the early days, Justice Allen, after the death of his wife in Ohio, brought his son, Artemus, to Steuben County. Artemus Allen lived in the home of Isaac Davis. Here he met and married Alvira Garrison, who was a member of the Davis household. Both Artemus and Alvira Allen were members of the Trinity Reformed Church. They were the parents of nine children: Samuel (deceased), Isaac Clyde, Floyd Wayne, Everett Allen (deceased), Edith (deceased), Ida, Anna (deceased), Bertha, and one died at an early age.

The Allen families have contributed a great deal to the community life of the Township. They are prosperous farmers, and their various talents have been used in building and making a better neighborhood.

Samuel Allen (1876-1934) married Jennie Klink (1874-1905), and they had one son, Wendell. Wendell Allen married Ruth Libey, and their children are Marcia, Janice, Harriet, and Donald. They live at Ashley. Samuel Allen's second wife was Josie Deller (1883- ). Their children are Gardus, Margaret, and Frances. Gardus Allen married Walter Hanna. They live in Salem Township, and their children are Roberta, Bruce, Bonnie, and one deceased. Roberta Hanna married Robert Standiford, and their children are Terry and Mary Susan. Bruce and Bonnie Hanna are at home. Margaret Allen married John Michael and lives in Eaton, Ohio. Their children are James, Mary, Tom, and George. Frances Allen married Robert Greenman and lives in Salem Township. Their children are Lewis, in the U.S. Army, Loretta and Diana at home.

Isaac Clyde Allen married Ida May Ferris, and their children are Loyal and Faye. By the second marriage, Clyde Allen had three sons, Harry, Van, and James.

Floyd Wayne Allen married Edna Graves, and their children are: Viola, Archie, Herman, William, Robert, and Patricia. Viola Allen married Wayne Sprankle. Their children are Elaine, Warren, and Robert. Archie Allen married Lila Erwin. Their children are Sandra and Stephen. Herman Allen married Georgene Bradley. William Allen married Dorothy Burnell. They have one son, Arthur. Robert Allen married Donna Lou Courtright. Their two daughters are Cynthia and Cathy. Patricia Allen is at home.

Edith Allen (deceased) married George Fatscher and lived in Ossian.

Ida Allen married Sam Noll, and their family is accounted for in the Noll section.

Anna Allen (deceased) married Will Noll. Bertha Allen married Earl Wolf and lives in Pleasant Lake.

Six generations of the Allen family have claimed Salem Township as their home.

Justice Allen  
 Artemus Allen (1849-1913)  
 Samuel Allen (1876-1934)  
 Gardus Allen Hanna (1907- )  
 Roberta Hanna Standiford (1928- )  
 Terry Standiford (1948- )

Dr. Mark T. Clay (1854-1914) began practicing medicine in Salem Center in 1880 and was the only physician in the village for many years. He died in his buggy at Little Rock, Arkansas. Dr. Clay married Amelia Beigh (1861-1930), and their children were Leo and Lura.

Leo Clay (1883-1953) married Vesta Miller (1883- ), and their children were Nihl and Kenneth. Nihl Clay (1905- ) married Catherine Pierson (1910-1932). They had two children,

Mary Carolyn and Fred. Mary Carolyn Clay married Wymond Hoyer Jr., and their children are Jo Lynn, Debra Ann, and Larry Patrick. They live in Jackson Township. Fred Clay married Helen Wooster and lives at Nevada Mills. Nihl Clay's second wife is Arva Straw. They have no children. They reside in Toledo, Ohio.

Kenneth Clay (1909- ) married Myrtle Hamman (1910- ), and their son is Leo Gilbert (1946- ). This family lives just west of Parker Corners.

Five generations of this family have lived in the county.

Dr. M. T. Clay (1854-1914)  
 Leo Clay (1883-1953)  
 Nihl Clay (1905- )  
 Mary Carolyn Clay Hoyer (1928- )  
 Jo Lynn Hoyer (1948- )

Lura Clay married Gwin Barber, and her children were Ruth, Rhea, Mary, and Claudine. Lura Clay and Rhea make their home in Salem Township with Orin Beigh north of Dutch Mill Corners.

Mr. and Mrs. Owen Elson came to Salem Township from DeKalb County in 1916. Mrs. Elson's maiden name was Anna Thomson. They were active members of the Trinity Reform Church and have been interested in the enterprises of the community that were progressive and constructive. They are the parents of four daughters, Wanda, Lucille, Estel, and Arlene. Wanda Elson married Fred Metzner and lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Their children are Joan and George. Lucille Elson married Don Kite and lives in Danville, Indiana. Their children are Cynthia and Deborah. Estel Elson married George Dosch and lives in Osceola, Indiana. Their children are Sue Ann, and Nancy Lou. Arlene Elson lives in Lebanon, Indiana.

East of Parkers Corners are the homes of Shirley Parr and his son, Dale. Shirley Parr married Sylvia Cannon, and their children are Dorothy, Donald, Dale, Gerald, and Merritt. Dorothy Parr married Otho Coney and lives in LaGrange County. Their



children are Shirley and Doyle. Donald Parr married Mildred Hawk, and they live in Sturgis, Michigan. Their children are Kyle, Larry, and Bonnie. Dale Parr married Norma Lower, and they reside in Salem Township. Their children are Nancy and Patricia. Gerald Parr married Barbara Thompson, and they live in Gary, Indiana. Their children are Carol, Ruth, and Marie. Merritt Parr married Wanda Young and lives in Sturgis, Michigan.

In the early days in Salem Township a blacksmith shop was as important to the community as a garage is now. Thomas Miller came to Salem Township and located on section 25, where he built a house and blacksmith shop. He was an exceptionally good workman, and not only shod horses but sharpened grub hoes and saws. He also made cow and sheep bells. His great-grandson, Kenneth Clay, is the proud owner of one of these cow bells. After Uncle Tom could work no more, his son Henry Miller bought the old frame school house that stood on the southwest corner of Parker Corners, and moved it to the northwest corner and made a blacksmith shop. He served the public for several years and then moved his family to Oklahoma. The old blacksmith shop was torn down in 1924 by Logan and Dan Parker.

The following comment is contributed by Cora Shields.

"In 1860 Jefferson Whitlock sold his farm on section 34 and bought 40 acres on section 21 of David Dunbar. There was a good log house and barn on it and Uncle Whit, as we all called him, built a frame shop, where he shod horses and did repair work of all kinds. Mrs. Whitlock was a daughter of William and Sally Bodley and came to Salem Township in 1851. She had a loom and wove carpets which was greatly appreciated by her neighbors."

In 1915 Elmer Hovarter (1879-1948) moved to his farm west of Parker Corners. Mrs. Hovarter was Abbie Dewitt before her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Hovarter had two children, Berneice and Harold.

Berneice Hovarter married Lawrence Milleman and has one son, Ronnie, who is in the armed forces in Korea. Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Milleman live near Parker Corners where they are successful farmers and are active in the organizations of the community. Harold Hovarter married Kathleen Smith and they live on the Hovarter farm with Mrs. Abbie Hovarter. Harold drove a truck for some years, but after his father's death, he returned to Salem Township and continued the farming of the home place.

In 1953 and 1954 a fire department was organized in Salem Township. The Board of Directors are: Ward Sparks, chairman; Sam Askey, Wayne Hughes, Russell Jackson, and Guy Teeters. The team members are: Dan Parker, fire chief; Howard Daily, assistant fire chief; Robert Allen, Donald Boyer, Gerald Boyer, Jack Clark, Kenneth Clay, Frank DeGraw, Rolle Halsey, Carrol Holden, Keith Holden, Darrell Hughes, Paul Tilbury, and Dan Wisel. In case of fire, the team members are notified by telephone until the new siren arrives. The fire truck is a 1947 International, Model KB 7. It was delivered on January 23, 1954 from Swayzee, Indiana. The equipment on the truck was purchased from Clarence Horine, a salesman for the American Marsh Pump Company, Battle Creek, Michigan. The truck chassis was donated to the Fire Department by the Salem Center Conservation Club at the purchase price of \$800 to start the ball a rolling. The first cost price of the truck was \$7500. The tank holds 645 gallons of water and has a 1000 ft. of hose. Uniforms have been purchased for each team member and their automobiles are equipped with blue lights for identity of duty while on the road to a fire. Many wells in the township have gone dry in the past months and the fire

truck has supplied the farmers with tanks of water. A building was reected in 1953-1954 just east of Parker's Garage to house the new fire truck. The labor was all donated as was the work of Henry Parker and Guy Teeters who supervised the architecture of the building.

The American Telegraph and Telephone Cable Line runs east and west through the middle of Salem Township. This line is a coast to coast hook up extending from New York City to Los Angeles, California. At various points along the way the cable runs underground. The underground cable extends from near Mishawaka, Indiana to LaSalle, Illinois. The pole line was put up in late 1924, and the A cable was spliced up in 1925. It consists of 128 quads plus 6 programs (for radio) circuits. In 1928 the B cable was added and it consists of 208 quads plus 6 program circuits for radio net work. Up to 1934 the A cable carried 6 circuits per quad, and in 1934 K carrier was added to increase the circuit layout to 32 circuits per quad. The poles for the Cable Line are set 110 ft apart, and the weight of each cable is 15 lb. per foot which makes a total of about  $1 \frac{2}{3}$  ton weight on each pole. All the lines are toll wires. The greatest damage to the line is done by children throwing stones or shooting at the cable. Service is sometimes interrupted by tornadoes, cyclones, or ice storms. In 1934 a building was erected one mile east of Parker Corners which houses the equipment to add extra circuits. In 1950 a building was put up west of the schoolhouse. Ft. Wayne was connected to the coast to coast cable, and as the circuit demand increased, more equipment had to be added. The Ft. Wayne calbe is underground. The American Telegraph and Telephone Company is the heaviest taxpayer in Salem Township.

There are two black top roads in Salem Township. Road 327 runs north and south across the western part of the township.



The state took over the supervision of this highway July 8, 1935. From Road 327 east across the township is another black top road maintained by the county. This black top follows the cable line and is often called the Cable Line Road. In the summer of 1937 it was black topped east of Parker Corners, and in 1946 the black top was put on west of Parker Corners. The main streets of the little villages are black topped. The rest of the township roads are gravel.

Parker Corners is the center of many community activities as the school gymnasium is used for many programs, basketball games and meetings of various kinds. And as progress has changed all things, the history of Parker Corners has gone through an ever changing regime.

One day a Salem Township pioneer asked a Potawatomi Indian if they used any weather signs, and the Indian grunted, "Yes, cloudy all around, pour down in the middle." And so it is with Parker Corners, Salem Township all around and Parker Corners in the middle.

## SOUTHERN SECTIONS

Over a hundred years ago the southern portion of Salem Township was largely swamp land and marsh so the population centered in the northern sections until the land was drained, cleared and made ready for cultivation. As the years have gone by, practically all of the southern portion has been drained and many productive farms are under cultivation.

In 1865, Samuel and Catherine Shaffer and their two children, Charlotte age 5, and Lévi age 3, came to Salem Township from Stark County, Ohio. They settled on the second farm north of the county line on Salem road. Samuel was a carpenter by trade, and with the help of his good wife, he built his home and cleared the land for cultivation. In January of 1866, Charlotte became ill with Spotted Fever and died in a very few hours. Other children of Samuel and Catherine Shaffer were Malisy Robinette, Cora M. Eyster, Myrtie L. Reinoehl, Emma I. Holden, Charley E. Shaffer, and Pearl Riddle.

Levi Shaffer (1862-1938) married Mary Alica Reinoehl (1867-1948), and their children were Erma, Esther, and Earl. Erma Shaffer married Selwyn Butler, and Esther Shaffer married Dale Butler. Their families are in the Butler record. Earl Shaffer married Alicia Warfel. They had two children, Ernest and Doris (deceased). They live in Englewood, Colorado.

Charles Shaffer (1880-1935) married Vesta Sperrow (1886-1944) and their children are Leah, Robert, and Russell. Leah Shaffer married Earl Reade (deceased). The children are Charlotte, LeNora, Charlie, Richard, and Kenneth. Robert Shaffer married Eva Tritch, and their family is in the Tritch account. Russell Shaffer married Miriam Grossman, and their boys are David and Darrell.

Benjamin and Margaret Chilson settled north of the county line on the Salem Road. Church services were held at their house prior to 1866 when Samuel Shaffer and others built the church on the county line which was called the County Line Church.

Between the homes of Ben Chilson and Jo Bell stood a little old frame schoolhouse. One of the pupils of this old school gives us the following account. "The drinking water was carried from Jo Bell's. How well we loved going for water, we could scarcely wait our turn. Mrs. Bell, the dear soul, often gave us candy or cookies. That may have been the reason for the rapid disappearance of the water."

In later years a brick school was built near the creek, known as Chilson School. The frame school was then used as a dwelling and Mr. and Mrs. Jo Bell lived in it. It has been remodeled into a modern house now occupied by James Getts and family. Teachers mentioned at the Chilson School were Nellie Latson, Biff Cox, and Elsie Wisel. The Chilson School has been torn down in recent years.

In 1879, south of the Chilson School a shop was built by the Shaffers and custom work was done, and there was also a cider mill near by. In August 1890, a very hot dry summer, the shop caught on fire, and a newly made straw stack, and new bank barn built in 1887. Men were threshing in the neighborhood and with the water tank and bucket brigade, the nearby house was saved.

The shop was rebuilt by Levi Shaffer as soon as possible and a sawmill where they sawed lumber and pickets for fencing was erected. There was also a cider mill where they made cider and apple jell.

In about 1901, Levi Shaffer moved his business to Helmer



where he operated a mill and lumber yard for many years.

Just south of Helmer lives the family of Ora Wright. Jephtha Wright (1788-1873) and his wife Betsey Emerson Wright (1787-1848) represent the first generation of Wrights in Salem Township. They were of Scotch and English descent and were from New Hampshire. They came to Salem Township in 1838 and settled in section 19. Jephtha's first wife died in 1848 and his second wife in 1872. Those of his children to reach mature age were Edward, Homen, Mary, Evans, Elbridge, Chauncy, Charles, and Richard. Jephtha Wright, together with his sons, acquired the ownership of about 700 acres of land. Of this second generation of Wrights we are concerned with Elbridge and Richard.

Elbridge Wright (1822-1879) married Martha Ann Cochran (1824- ). Their children were Elnora, Henry, Cyrus, Monroe, Marion, Elsie, and Dora. Henry Wright (1850-1909), who represents the third generation, married Mary E. Frederick (1850-1906). Their children were Charles, who died when he was 9 years old, and David. David Wright (1873-1950) married Celia Hunt. Their three children were Russell (deceased), Floyd, and Lawrence. Lawrence Wright married Aylene Hartman and is the fifth generation living on the Wright farm.

Five generation have lived in Salem Township.

Jephtha Wright (1787-1873)  
 Elbridge Wright (1822-1879)  
 Henry Wright (1850-1909)  
 David Wright (1873-1950)  
 Lawrence Wright (1906- )

Richard Wright (1816-1857), son of Jephtha, died at an early age leaving his wife and family. Ervin Wright (1848-1898) was one of the sons and represents the third generation. He was the father of Minnie (1874-1894), Charley, Ora, and Archie. Ora Wright married Cora Freed, and their children are Dale, Robert, Glen, and Donna Jean. Dale Wright married Percita Oberholtz, and their chil-

dren are Norman and Kenneth. Robert Wright married Lois Stackhouse. Their children are Clardon and Janet. Olen Wright married Glyndon Smith and they have a daughter, Judith Elaine. Donna Jean Wright married Andrew Cook, and their children are Lynn, Brent, and Blaine.

Six generations have lived in Salem Township.

Jeptha Wright (1787-1873)  
 Richard Wright (1816-1857)  
 Ervin Wright (1848-1898)  
 Ora Wright (1886- )  
 Dale Wright (1914- )  
 Norman Wright (1942- )

Just north of the county line is the Neidig home. This farm was purchased in 1899 by Mrs. Neidig's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Sharp. Glades Sharp married Elmer Neidig (deceased), and their children are Faye and Cecil. Faye Neidig married Weir Shaffer and lives in Ashley. Cecil Neidig is unmarried and is at home with his mother and grandmother Sharp, who is 89 years of age.

North of the Neidig farm runs the Wabash Railroad. At the turn of the century, a church was erected just north of the track. Win Reinhart donated the land for the church and a Mr. Tatman was the promoter and minister. The church was of short duration and in 1905, Elmer Neidig bought the building and made a barn out of the cement blocks and lumber.

In section 35 on the county line lives the family of Elmer Shipe. Jacob and Martha Krum took up this land in 1848. Their daughter, Mary, married Henry Wilsey and had a daughter, Grace. Grace Wilsey married Elmer Shipe, and they have a son, Ford. Ford Shipe lives across the road from his parents and helps in the operation of the farm. His daughter is Esther Shipe.

Five generations of this family have lived on the same farm.

Jacob Krum  
 Mary Krum Wilsey (1861-1924)  
 Grace Wilsey Shipe (1882- )  
 Ford Shipe (1912- )  
 Esther. Shipe (1941- )

The Gonser family has a long record in Salem Township.

Mose Gonser (1829-1906) represents the first generation of Gonsers in Salem Township. His parents were David and Catherine Miller Gonser. Mose Gonser came to DeKalb County in 1848 and in 1869 they moved to Salem Township, where he bought 250 acres in sections 35 and 36. In 1880 he built a fine two story brick house in section 36 at a cost of \$2500. His great-grandson, Robert Gonser, lives in this home at the present time. Mose Gonser married Louisa Wright (1835-1915) and six children were born to them: Amanda (died at the age of 17), Albert, Flora, Mary Etta, Robert M., and Martha. Albert W. Gonser (deceased) married Charlotte Childs (deceased). Their children were Mable and Joyce (deceased). Flora A. Gonser (deceased) married James Skelly (deceased). Their children were Grace, Maude, Esther, and Willis, who lives in Salem Township. Mary Etta Gonser<sup>married ?</sup> (deceased) and their children were Ethel Odessa (Mrs. Spen Ringler), Carl (deceased) and Ralph (deceased). Robert M. Gonser (deceased) married Lillian Bonbroke. They were the parents of six children: Wayne (deceased), Kenneth, Orlo (deceased), Winnfred, Merle, and one died in infancy. Of these children, Merle has remained in Salem Township. Merle Gonser married Blanche Elliot, and their children are Wilda, Robert D., and Lois. Wilda Gonser married Raymond Halsey, and their children are Mary Lois, Dale, and Brian. Robert D. Gonser married Helen Butler, and their daughter is Lizabeth. Lois Gonser married Ivan Willibey and their children are David, Diana, and Carole. They reside in Bloomington, Indiana where Mr. Willibey manages an A&P Store.



Five generations of this Gonser family have lived in Salem Township.

Mose Gonser (1829-1906)  
Robert M. Gonser (1866-1904)  
C. Merle Gonser (1893- )  
Robert D. Gonser (1917- )  
Elizabeth Ann Gonser (1953- )

Merle and Robert Gonser are industrious and progressive farmers, maintaining well kept homes and productive farms. They are interested in the raising of dairy cattle. Merle Gonser's brother, Wayne, was killed in France during World War I. The mother, Lillian Bonbroke Gonser visited her son's grave in France with the other Gold Star Mothers of America.

Across the road from where the old cider mill and lumber mill used to be is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Wren.

James Wren was the first generation of Wrens to come to Salem Township. Russ Wren represents the second generation in the family and Kenneth Wren is the third generation. Kenneth Wren married Mabel Phillips, the daughter of Levi N. Phillips, who lived in Salem Township from 1931-1942. Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Wren have four sons: Bucky, Robin, James, and Jody. Kenneth Wren has a keen interest in various kinds of guns, and has an unusual gun collection.

East of Chilson bridge is the home of Carl Tubbs who represents the third generation of Tubbs in Steuben County. In 1855 Alfred and Christina Tubbs of New York State came to Steuben County accompanied by their son, Leroy Tubbs. In Richland County, Ohio Leroy Tubbs (1824-1884) married Rhoda Jane Hills, who was born in 1827, the daughter of John and Betsey Hills. Leroy Tubbs bought land from his father and immediately set to work to improve it. His first house was a board shanty, but he soon built a log house. In 1869 he built a fine two story frame house. His hard work in clearing his heavily timbered land was undoubtedly the cause of

the illness which culminated in his death. Leroy and Rhoda Tubbs had six children: Ida, Mary Elizabeth Ritter, Sarah Stump, Emma Lavina Stover, John Albert who died at 16 months, and Franklin.

Franklin Tubbs (1858-1922) married Barbara Ritter (1859-1925) and their two children were Mabel and Carl. Mabel Tubbs married Ott Simmons and their children were Wren, Lela, Ana, and Frank. Of this family two of the children live in Salem Township. Lela Simmons married Tom Waller. They had four children: Betty, Mabel Alice, Jerry, and Robert. Ana Simmons married Wilson Kemery. Their children are Darola, Carolyn, and Darlene.

Carl Tubbs (1887- ) married Edna Libey, and their children are Arden, Rhea, Keith, Wendell, Fay, and June. Rhea, Keith, and Wendell are unmarried. Arden Tubbs married Geraldine Johnson, and their children are David, Philip, Paul, and Elisabeth. David Tubbs married Grace Creech. Fay Tubbs married Catherine Fretz, and their daughter is Karen. June Tubbs married Wayne Buell.

Six generations of Tubbs have lived in Salem Township.

Alfred Tubbs  
 Leroy Tubbs (1824-1883)  
 Franklin Tubbs (1858-1922)  
 Carl Tubbs (1887- )  
 Arden Tubbs (1907- )  
 David Tubbs (1931- )

## CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Sociability, friendliness, and a common purpose have been a specific aim for the promotion of several clubs in the township.

One of the newer clubs in the Young Mother's Club of the Presbyterian Church. It was organized in 1947 under the leadership of Mrs. Jane Jones when a group of young women met at Westminster House in Salem for the purpose of attaining a happier childhood for their children and a better parenthood for themselves. Among those attending the first meeting were Eva Emerson, Virginia Boots, Evelyn Leas, Jane Jones, Geneva Alleshouse, Arlene Alleshouse, Myrtle Clay, Alice Parker, Pauline Shumaker, Mrs. Wayne Bower, Pauline Elkins, and Byrdena Boots. This club is still active and meets every month at the homes of the various members. There is quite a large membership at the present time.

In January of 1943, some Salem Township women met with the mothers of service men in Steuben Township at Pleasant Lake to organize Unit 56 of Mothers of World War II. Mothers attending from Salem Township were Delphia Boyer, Abbie Hovarter, Delsie Phillips, Edna Allen, Bertha Warstler, Ethel Clark, and Bina Cool. Other mothers from Salem Township belong to this organization. They meet every month.

The G.A.C. Club grew out of World War I when some of the ladies who had worked for the Red Cross wanted to continue helping others. The first meeting was at the home of Cora Zent, and some of the ladies attending were Cora Zent Shields, Mary Miller (deceased), Abbie Hovarter, Helen Kimmell (deceased), Flora Wisel (deceased), Jane Summers (deceased), Edna Hanna (deceased), Julie Imus (deceased), Debbie Lepley (deceased), Connie Parker, Rilla Tumbleson (deceased), Vienna Teeters (deceased), Hattie Ellithorp (deceased), Dellie Strawser (deceased), Belle Stout (deceased), Mary VanPelt (deceased).



They used to sew for families, mend, patch, and sew carpet rags. The G.A.C. stands for "Get Acquainted Club". They meet at different homes.

The Home Economics Club is an old club in the township, having started in May, 1923 at the home of Mrs. Blanche Amerman. Some of the early members were Viola Wood (deceased), Blanche Amerman, Carrie Chamberlain, Lou Phillips, Lillie Phillips (deceased), Estella Parsell (deceased), Mertie Wilson (deceased), Ona Emerson (deceased), Lizzie Butler (deceased), and Chloe Bovee. The purpose of this club is to bring Purdue Extension work to the women of the rural areas that they may enjoy better homemaking theories. The 1954 officers are Delia McLain, president; Florence Holden, vice-president; Lila Holden, secretary; Joyce Herlad, treasurer. They meet the first Thursday in every month.

The Conservation Club of Salem Township was organized on March 4, 1940. Ned Emerson was the first president. The purpose of this club is to give official care and preservation to the natural resources and wild life of the township. This club also takes an active part in the welfare of the community and have been a great aid in the promotion of the fire department. Jack Boyer is president at the present time and Lawrence Milleman is secretary.

The various churches in the township have their aid societies or guilds. These groups serve public meals from time to time.

The Farm Bureau and 4H groups have a large membership in the township, taking part in many county activities. William Milleman is the Farm Bureau Chairman at the present time and Mrs. Shirl Wilhelm is secretary and treasurer. Leaders in the 4H groups are Mrs. William Milleman and Dean Halsey.

The Salem Study Club was originally the D.N.D. (Doing not Dreaming) Club which was a Sunday School class taught by Mrs. Ora

Butler. The club was started in the early 1920's. Margaret Butler and Mabel Greeno have been active members since the club started. The club meets every month and studies topics of the day. Florence Heffley is the president, Blanche Gonser is the vice-president, and Margaret Butler the secretary and treasurer.

## HUDSON TOWN PARK

The idea of a park for Hudson was brought forth by the Hudson Civic Club in 1948.

The Hudson Civic Club is made up of delegates from each church and community club in the community, as well as others who are civic minded.

The original site of the Park and Playground, located on the east side of Main Street in the north central part of town, was the site of the grade school previous to the building of the present school in the 1890's.

This plot of ground had been sold to private individuals some years ago, so it was necessary to purchase it for the park site.

In 1953 additional land was purchased to the east of the original site, so that the park might be enlarged.

The park, at present, contains rest rooms, a softball diamond, well, fireplaces, picnic tables, swings, teeter boards, slides, and a merry-go-round.

A shelter house is to be erected in the present year of 1954.

The investment so far is just a little over \$2000. Much of the labor on the various projects have been done without charge.

The 1954 Park Board is as follows:

Ruell Ransburg-chairman  
Robert Kanning  
Spencer Ringler  
Cleota Pfingstag  
Grace Rundle

The Park Board is appointed each year by the Town Board.

The upkeep of the Park is paid by the Town and the Civic Club.

The Park is known as the Hudson Town Park.



## LAKE OF THE WOODS RESORT

The resort was first started by John Anspach around 1925. He owned the farm surrounding the lake and built a road down to the lake and opened a food store. He also built some cabins.

About 1930 he built a hotel and in 1932 built a dance hall, but were never used because of his death. The farm was sold to Harold Gantt. The food store, hotel, and dance hall were sold to Fred Stern in 1935.

Until the coming of World War II, the resort sponsored one of the best baseball teams in this part of the county.

Harold Gantt opened a new addition on the other end of the lake in 1945, and in 1944 the food store and dance hall were sold to C.H. Felger. The dance hall played to some of the biggest name bands in the country until it was converted to a restaurant.

In recent years a new addition was opened on the other side of the lake, and lake lots put on sale.

## BIOGRAPHY OF DR. R. D. DENMAN

For nearly half a century the populace of Helmer, Indiana and surrounding community have been privileged to have the same faithful family country doctor. It was in 1906 that Dr. and Mrs. Robert D. Denman came to Helmer to make their home and begin the practice of medicine. Although Mrs. Denman passed away in 1945, the doctor has continued his medical service.

Robert D. Denman, M. D. was born on a farm in Adams County, Indiana in 1873. His parents were John and Eliza J. Daily Denman. Mohlon Denman, the grandfather was a mess boy in the Revolutionary War and the grandmother was a bond-maid in the home of George Washington. In 1876 the Denman family moved to Willshire, Ohio where the father operated a buggy factory and repair shop.

In the schools of Willshire, Ohio, Robert Denman received his elementary and high school education. While attending Ohio Normal University at Ada, Ohio, he met Bertha Mae Copeland, who was also pursuing literary and scientific courses.

Bertha Copeland was born in 1874 in Mercer County, Ohio, the daughter of William and Susan Flemming Copeland. She received twelve years of schooling in Neptune, Ohio, and taught in her native county for three years. She was also principal of the Genoa, Illinois High School.

In 1889, Robert D. Denman and Bertha Copeland were married and entered the National Normal University at Lebanon, Ohio, Mrs. Denman as a student of music and art and Mr. Denman as a pre-medical student. For five years Mr. Denman taught in the Van Wert County Schools and was principal of the Mercer, Ohio High School.

Mr. Denman went into the offices of the Home Correspondence

School in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1902, where he did part-time work and matriculated in the Medical College of Indiana, which was the Medical Department of Purdue University. He received his degree from Purdue University in 1906 and came to Helmer to begin his medical career.

For nearly fifty years Dr. Denman has been a faithful, understanding doctor. Over a radius of many miles he has traveled with horse and buggy, sleigh, wagon and tractor until the advent of the automobile made his work more pleasant and convenient. During his years of service he has owned six horses and twenty automobiles. No day or night was too cold or stormy to keep Dr. Denman from making his routine calls and administering to his patients. Over the period of years he has delivered more than 2000 babies. His keen interest is not only manifest in his profession but in community activities. His friendly understanding advice has helped many families in their hours of sorrow.

Mrs. Denman was a faithful companion and an untiring partner in her husband's active vocation. She was not only a proficient homemaker and mother, but efficiently kept the doctor's books and managed his professional routine. Her artistic abilities were revealed throughout her home and her musical talents were shared in her church and community. A woman of sterling qualities and character, Mrs. Denman's life was undaunted by the trivial affairs of every day.

Dr. and Mrs. Denman are the parents of two children, Dr. Dean C. Denman, a heart specialist in Whittier, California, and Winnifred, who married Stuart McLain and has two sons, Neal Denman and Douglas Robert. Mr. McLain is associated with the Atomic Energy Commission near Downers Grove, Illinois.

Dr. R. D. Denman holds an honorary life membership in both the



Steuben County and the Indiana State Medical Associations for fifty years of Medical service. He is a member of the Northern Indiana Academy of Medicine and is a Fellow of the American Medical Association.

Dr. Denman was killed in an automobile accident in 1955.

## BIOGRAPHY OF REV. JOHN E. JONES

Among the pastors serving at the present time in Steuben County, Rev. John E. Jones of the Salem Center Presbyterian Church has the honor and distinction of having ministered to his church and community the greatest number of years of any pastor---over 31 years. In the Presbytery of Wabash River, he is recognized for the same unusual record. He has twice served as moderator of the Presbytery.

John E. Jones, the second son of John D. and Mary Breese Jones, was born June 21, 1885 in Randolph Township, Columbia County, Wisconsin. The maternal grandparents came from Wales in 1845 and the father, John D., came with his parents from Wales in 1848. Both families came to Wisconsin where they took an active part in the establishing of the Welsh community and Welsh churches.

In the schools of Cambria, Wisconsin, John E. Jones received his early education and graduated from the high school there. He attended and graduated from Ripon College in Wisconsin and the McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. He was then called to be the stated supply of the Schneider and Lake Prairie Presbyterian Churches in Lake County, Indiana. In the summer of 1917 Rev. Jones resigned from these churches to accept a call in the Presbyterian Church at Waterloo and Salem Center, Indiana. In June of the following year he answered his county call to become a war secretary for the Y.M.C.A.

After receiving his 'Y' training at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin and Columbia University in New York City, Rev. Jones was shipped with other volunteers to South Hampton, England, and hence to Le Havre, France. Early in December of the same year (1918) he was assigned to serve as 'Y' secretary with the 26th Division, located at that time, near Chaumont, France. This division was one of the first

units that the United States had sent to participate in the First World War, and it had seen a long hard service.

When the 26th Division departed for the United States, Rev. Jones was then assigned to serve with the 36th Division at Tonnere, France. Upon the completion of this assignment he was given a two week leave. With three other 'Y' secretaries he journeyed through southern France visiting many historical and interesting places, including Dyon Lyons, Arles, Nimes, Marseilles, and Monte Carlo, returning to La Mans by way of the Maritimes Alps.

While waiting for transportation home, he served for a brief time at an evacuation camp at Saint Malo, France. During his services there, he was given the opportunity to visit St. Michael and other historical places.

In July, 1919, Rev. Jones returned to New York City where he was released from service as Y.M.C.A. Secretary.

He began his second pastorate at the Salem Center Presbyterian Church on Nov. 1, 1919. Rev. Jones ministered to this congregation until Nov. 1, 1924. On January 17, 1925, he became the pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Farmersburg, Indiana, and continued there until July, 1928.

On August 5, 1925 John E. Jones was married to Jane A. Williams. She was born in South Dakota on June 3, 1896, the daughter of Humphrey and Sara Williams. Jane Jones received her elementary and high school education in the schools of Wales and Waukesha, Wisconsin. In 1924 she graduated from the Presbyterian College of Christian Education in Chicago, and served as a church secretary in Wilmett, Illinois.

By request and persuasion of the Salem Center Church, in September 1928, Rev. Jones returned to serve the church, this time



accompanied by Mrs. Jones.

A little four year old girl, Betty Jean, came to live in the Jones home in 1934 and the next year was legally adopted by Rev. and Mrs. Jones. Betty Jones has received her degree in education from Ball State Teachers College and is following the teaching profession.

Since 1928 Rev. and Mrs. Jones have worked diligently and untiring in building a greater church and better community. Their interests and energies have been exercised in all the worthwhile and educational activities of the township and county. Mrs. Jones has been an organizer, advisor and teacher for many of the best organizations in the community. She has taken an active part in the Ft. Wayne Presbyterial and has efficiently participated in some official duties, serving four years as president and four years as corresponding secretary.

Rev. Jones has been associated with four and five generations of some families. Rev. and Mrs. Jones have given their time, understanding and sympathy in troubled hours and have enjoyed the social life of a rural community. Their Christian living and influence have made a strong imprint in the Salem Church and Community.

November 1979

DEGRAW FAMILY SUPPLEMENT

Since the preceeding information was recorded in 1954 several more children were added to the family.

Frank (1918-1976) and Fern Wallace DeGraw had three more children, Donald Lee, Iris Ann and Linda Kae.

Frank and Dorothy Degraw Langley had one more son, Jerry Lenard.  
Re: Elwood and Louise DeGraw Parr's family.

Gaylord Roger Parr married Janet Irene Wilder. They have three children, Jeffrey Allen, Angela Allison and Gregory Erick. They live near Orland, Ind. He owns Parr Farm Supply and does trucking, buying and selling of grain, fertilizers, chemicals and seeds.

Richard Brent Parr married Rosalind Elizabeth Moellering (Lindy). They have two children, Alicia Janel and Derek Christien. Dick is a manager of a Cargill Corporation Plant in Gainsville, Ga.

Gordon Elwood Parr married Maureen Marie Ellsworth. They have three daughters, Rachel Cathleen, Erica Leslie and Amanda Maureen. Gordon farms with his father.

Rodney Lynn Parr is still single. He has a bait shop at Turkey Lake, near Stroh and works part time driving truck and working with construction.

Re: Frank and Fern DeGraw's family.

Glenn Allen DeGraw married Kim Cox. They have two children, Glenn Allen, Jr. and Jason. They are now divorced.

Donald Lee and Iris Ann are both living at home.

Linda Kae married Robert Deller and they have one daughter, Jamie Marie.

Re: Frank and Dorothy DeGraw Langley's family.

Brenda Lorayn Langley married Robert Laurence Sinke and they have three daughters, Bethany Lorayn, Babette Leigh and Belinda Lenore. They live in Grand Rapids, Mich. Brenda is a R.N. and Bob is a supervisor at Meijer, Inc.

James Leroy Langley married Beverly Jean Snyder. They have two children, Jody Lynn and Todd James. They live in Wayland, Mich. Jim is a supervisor for Michigan Bell in Grand Rapids.

Rebecca Lynn Langley married Timothy Allen Blossom. They have three children, Diantha Marie, Amy Sue and Richard Allen. They live in Grand Rapids, Mich. Becky works for Johnson Furniture and Tim is a security guard for Lescoa.

Jerry Lenard Langley lives in Grand Rapids, Mich., working for Keeler Brass and taking night classes to further his education.

Re: Arthur and Mary Lou DeGraw Sunde's family.

Frank Martin Sunde married Terrie Utley. They have two children, Anthony and Heather Danielle. They live in Helper, Utah.

Barbara Constance Sunde (Connie) lives in Boise, Idaho. At the present time she works in the medical records department of a nursing home.

Mark Rodney Sunde is living in Seattle, Washington.

Mary Lou and Art are divorced. She is now Mrs. George Bull and lives near Desmet, Idaho.



November 1979

## PARR FAMILY SUPPLEMENT

Augustus (Gust) Orron Parr was born in Salem Township, Steuben County, Indiana on November 20, 1885, the son of George Parr (February 23, 1850 - August 2, 1926) and Catherine Shimpff Parr (July 24, 1850 - 1937).

Gust married Ella Mae Van Pelt (January 16, 1891) in Angola, Indiana on October 12, 1909. Ella was the daughter of Otis Minor and Mary Jane Van Pelt. To this union were born four children, Fern Arlene (April 18, 1910), Floi Irene (December 15, 1911), Elwood Lavon (December 22, 1915), and Imogene Rose (Polly) (March 23, 1918). The children were all born in Salem Township, Steuben County, and along with their Mother, are still living. Gust passed away on December 9, 1969, living his entire life on the Parr Farm in Salem Township.

Fern married Paul Elson on December 8, 1928 and to this union were born two daughters, Shirley Ellen (August 11, 1929) and Paula Odetta (October 3, 1931).

In August of 1954 Shirley married Leon Bixler, they had one daughter, Renee. In June of 1978, Renee, became Mrs. John Michael Falcone.

Paula became the bride of Richard Lee Hurley in November of 1949 and they gave Fern and Paul three more grandchildren, Jon Lee, Suzette Ellen and Tamera Dee.

Jon married Mary Sue Delucenay and they have a son, Paul Jon.

Suzette married Alex Rodriquez and they have a son, Matthew Ryan.

Tamera Dee is still single and goes to Purdue University.

Paula Hurley works at the Lincoln National Bank Tower in Fort Wayne, Indiana, as a credit investigator in installment loans.

Shirley Ellen lives in Indianapolis, Indiana, and works in an office. Jon Hurley was in Viet Nam for over a year in the Navy, serving on the Kitty Hawk and the U.S.S. Mont Katmai.

Paul O. Elson passed away February 24, 1964. Fern Elson married Roy R. Sindel, June 27, 1970, and now lives in Bryon, Ohio. Fern lived in Fort Wayne, Indiana for 41 years and was a caseworker until her marriage to Mr. Sindel.

Floi married Henry Lawrence Wheeler on June 28, 1930, and to this union were born two children, Carole Ann (November 3, 1932) and James Henry (October 16, 1935). Little Jimmie passed away August 14, 1936, and along with his father, Henry, are buried in Lakeview Cemetary, Kendallville, Indiana. Floi is a beautician and formerly owned the Floi Dees Beauty Salon.

Carole Ann married Wayne Sheets in 1949 and is the mother of seven children; Gregory Wayne (May 9, 1950), Jeffory Thomas (April 25, 1951), Linda Carole (April 1, 1955), Douglas Eugene (March 4, 1957), Brenda Sue (September 2, 1963), Faithe Ann (March 15, 1972), and Hope Angela (July 6, 1973). Carole Ann is a nurse at the Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Gregory married Mariann Cristina Larranga, January 12, 1972, and are the parents of Bryon Nickolas (September 8, 1973), Amanda Marie (November 3, 1976) and Angela Lizette (August 2, 1979). Gregory is a journeyman plumber and lives in Westlawn, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Jeffery married Sara Gemmer and they are the parents of Jeremiah Thomas (December 20, 1976).

Linda Carole is an accomplished musician and artist, and is currently working as a plumber and attending plumbing school in pre-

peration to enter the solar heating industry.

Gregory served in the Viet Nam conflict in 1971, on the U.S.S. Bainbridge. Jeffory served on the U.S.S. Simon Lake, in Scotland. Douglas served on the U.S.S. America. Douglas has entered college, taking business law.

Elwood married Florence Louise DeGraw on February 17, 1940, and to this union four sons were born; Gaylord Roger (April 24, 1941), Richard Brent (September 21, 1943), Gordon Elwood (March 4, 1948), and Rodney Lynn (February 5, 1952). Please refer to the DeGraw Family Supplement.

Polly married George Willard "Bill" Parker, of Kendallville, on September 23, 1939. They have two sons: Terry Lee (May 11, 1940) and Kent Douglas (September 13, 1943). Polly works in the Magnavox Personnel and Bill is retired from General Electric, all of Fort Wayne.

Terry married Juanita Stritmatter, who had three children; David, 6, Judith, 3, and Pamela 2. Polly and Bill were very happy to become instant grandparents. Then Terry and Juanita had two daughters; Kimberly Shawn, and Aimee Lynn. Aimee Lynn died at three months of age. Kimberly is a horse enthusiast and has won many horse shows. Terry and family live on Rd. 8, east of Auburn, Indiana, and he works at International Harvester at Fort Wayne, Indiana. They have recently purchased a dress shop in Auburn, Indiana, which they now operate.

Kent married a nurse, Martha Zych, of Merrillville, Indiana, Kent, a graduate of Indiana State College, is a coach and teacher at Lowell, Indiana. They have two children; Michael and Sherrie. Kent and Marty are now divorced.













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